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THURSDAY, JANUARY 10TH, 2013

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LDP could be back in melting pot – after Plaid research casts doubt on population estimates

CUTTING the number of homes allocated in the Vale under the Vale Council's Local Development Plan (LDP) has not been ruled out – after Plaid Cymru unearthed statistics questioning population growth estimates put forward by the Welsh Government.

The news will give

GEM report by PHILIP IRWIN

fresh hope to communities in Cowbridge, Llantwit Major, Barry, Penarth and Dinas Powys, where strong residents' protests were triggered when the previous administration released its LDP.

Since then, a number of politicians and groups have queried whether the

Vale needed around 10,000 new homes to be built in the period from 2006 to 2026.

Plaid Cymru councillors have called for the Vale Council's LDP housing projections to be cut by 4,000 homes because they claim that Welsh Government population estimates are nearly 40 per cent inaccurate.

Around 10,000 homes were proposed in the draft plan, based on Welsh Government projections that the Vale's population would increase by almost 20,000 between 2006 and 2026.

CENSUS DATA

However, Plaid's research, based on the 2011 census, has found that, after five years (2006 to 2011), the Welsh Government projections are almost 40 per cent out, with the population growing by 3,000, rather than an estimated 5,000.

Plaid says that the population of the Vale grew from 123,275 to 126,300 between 2006 and 2011, when the 2006 estimate was 128,100.

'MEET NEED'

If this pattern were to continue, then the Vale's population in 2026, at the end of the LDP, will be about 135,600 rather than 143,600 – 8,000 fewer than predicted.

Plaid Cymru councillor Ian Johnson said: "The LDP's housing projection should be concerned with meeting need, not driving the housing market."

"Welsh Government population projections were nearly 40 per cent out over the last five years. Over the next 15 years, that could mean a difference of around



FLASHBACK: This was the scene in May when Cowbridge residents protested against plans to build around 100 homes on fields just off St Athan Road. It was just one example in the Vale of opposition to the LDP.

8,000 people. That would make a huge difference to future plans.

"Any re-assessment of the LDP must look at these figures and change the housing projections."

"It would be ridiculous to build 10,000 homes in the Vale for only 9,000 extra people."

"What we require are houses to meet the need in Barry, and on a smaller level in all towns in the Vale so that young people and families can live where they grew up and not be priced out."

FAMILIES

"Housing across the Vale should reflect real families and not just be executive housing."

"With thousands of houses already given planning permission on brown-field sites, including more than 2,000 in Barry, there is almost no reason to build on green-field locations around the Vale, such as around

Weycock Cross."

The Plaid Cymru group leader on the Vale Council, Chris Franks, added: "These are shocking figures which show how much we could be over-building in the Vale."

"In addition to looking again at planning permission on greenfield sites, we also shouldn't be building large numbers of homes where there is only one main road exit, such as the 400 houses in Dinas Powys that will feed onto Cardiff Road. That will only lead to gridlock on already busy roads."

"It was made clear when Plaid Cymru councillor Chris Williams and myself questioned the Vale Council recently that changing the housing numbers had not been considered."

"That should now be a matter of high priority."

(CONTINUED
ON PAGE 6)

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Campaign group welcomes new Island footbridge

WITH the new footbridge at Barry Island railway station nearing completion, I am pleased to have been associated with its long-awaited arrival.

On behalf of Barry First group, I wish to thank all who gave support during our long campaign to get this new bridge in place, with special thanks to Tim Chapman of The GEM newspaper for his part in bringing it to the attention of a wider audience within Barry.

We are equally pleased by the disabled access ramp included in

the final build.

We would also like to thank Coun Jeff James, as we believe he gave this new bridge his blessing while he was chair of the Vale's planning committee, when the go-ahead was given to conclude the final stages of the planned new footbridge.

We now eagerly await its opening and hope everyone is as pleased as we are with the final product.

We would also like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy New Year.

Barrie V Evans,
(Coordinator, Barry First Group)

Please 'pick up' after your dog!

IREAD with interest the letter in The GEM on January 3 from Mr M Painter Cowbridge, regarding the problem of irresponsible dog owners - Mr Painter, you are not alone.

I live in Eagleswell Road, Boverton, and for years have regularly 'picked up' after other people's dogs at the entrance to my property.

I love dogs and would never suggest that they should not walk amongst us, but I would ask all dog owners to carry a plastic bag with you wherever you walk with your dog, pick up its bodily waste, and deposit it in the relevant bins.

I have, in the past, slipped on dog faeces at the entrance to my driveway. Luckily for me, I was able to recover my

balance and avoid falling over, other people who suffer this misfortune may not be able to stay upright as I did.

I leave you to imagine what the consequences could be.

More important than the mess and inconvenience, dog faeces can contain a virus which causes toxocarasis.

I understand that every year, the eyesight of several children is affected by this virus.

It can cause pain, swelling around the eye, sometimes a cross-eyed appearance and in untreated cases, diminished eyesight.

I understand that the Vale of Glamorgan Council will provide free dog poop bags and after use, they can be deposited in any public waste bin.

Barbara Hodges,
Llantwit Major
(SEE PAGE 24)

'Thank you for help in flooding'

IWISH to thank all my neighbours and friends who helped me clear water and move objects to safety and gave me personal assistance during recent flooding.

Also, I wish to thank the Jehovah Witness people for their kind help.

Miss Pearl Ray, Llantwit Major

SHARE YOUR VIEWS!

Let us know what you think about what is going on in the Vale - email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

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We will (in certain circumstances) protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7E OR email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

'More details are needed on new council tax levy'

IWRITE in reference to a GEM report (November 29) when the Leader of the Vale Council, Coun Neil Moore, was interviewed by Philip Irwin on the subject of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).

I am concerned by Coun Moore's statement that revenue raised by the CIL will be put into a central pot, to spend in areas where the council thinks it is most needed.

Could Coun Moore please elaborate just how and where the cash from this central pot should be spent?

- Would the CIL revenue be spent in areas where social housing developments are being built?
- Would the CIL revenue be spent in areas where housing developments are not being built?
- Will the central pot be used to fund non-infrastructure items, such as public art?

Can Coun Moore advise if new social housing developments will be exempt from, or entitled to relief from CIL, and if entitled to relief, at what percentage?

In addition, Coun Moore stated that an estimated £40 million could be raised over the 15-year period of the LDP and the expected CIL revenue could average £8,800 per house.

Dividing £8,800 into £40 million equates to 4,545 houses. Does this mean that the council has managed to reduce the LDP requirement from the 10,000 houses originally estimated?

Surely, by transferring CIL revenue to a central pot, the council would effectively be robbing Peter to pay Paul?

The end result will be that private housing developments will have a reduced infrastructure, due to their CIL revenue being used to help fund social housing and its infrastructure.

'Remember the workers!'

MORE people than ever worked over the Christmas period this year. As many of us relaxed, thousands had to forego their holidays to go to work.

Ambulance staff, care home workers, petrol station and pub staff, coastguards and so on, all went to work, either to keep us safe, or to

ensure we all had a happy Christmas.

According to the TUC, the number of people who work on Christmas Day has increased by a staggering 78 per cent over the past 10 years.

I would personally like to thank these wonderful people for giving up their Christmas for us.

Coun Richard Bertin,
Barry
(Independent, Vale Council)

True meaning of Christmas

HOW I agree with the recent letter about the true meaning of Christmas.

Your reader was correct in saying Christmas day is Christ's birthday, and the only trees he saw were palm trees.

The true meaning of Christmas has long gone. Only those with a true religious belief keep to its real meaning.

Joyce Mohamed, Barry

Could this be a clever political ploy that is intended to generate votes?

In my opinion, the CIL is effectively just another tax created in 2008 by the previous Government to raise yet more funds from the shrinking number of hard-working responsible people who aspire to be, or are, homeowners.

Gordon Wilkie,
Llantwit Major

The day that a Spitfire crashed at Llantrithyd

YOUR correspondent, Alun Reed, of Bridgend, is correct in his recollection of a Spitfire crash in 1942-43, but unless there was a second similar crash, I can be more specific on location. (ref 'Is my Spitfire memory accurate?' - GEM letters, December 20, 2012).

A Spitfire did crash in this period (exact date as yet unknown) near the village of Llantrithyd.

The crash site is just south of the village, and it was witnessed by a young schoolboy and his mother as they cycled to chapel.

I met and interviewed this witness many years later when, as a retired chemical engineer, he recalled the incident and took me to the crash site.

The earth at the site was so disturbed by the impact that it has a different appearance to the rest of the large field where it is situated.

Unfortunately, although he was first on the scene, the pilot was already dead in the smouldering wreckage.

At first, it was thought this was a

Czech flyer - Valentin Kubin - now buried in Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery (see my earlier letters and articles concerning him).

On further research, this proved not to be the case, as Valentin was a wireless operator/air gunner with a Czechoslovak bomber squadron of the RAF, who died six weeks before the end of World War Two, in Sully Hospital.

It was a diversion, as I researched Valentin's life and flying career.

I have not yet probed the Llantrithyd crash, but rumour has it that the pilot was an Australian, having taken off in his plane after serving at RAF St Athan.

Whoever it was circled many times before crashing, no doubt seeking a safe flat landing area away from houses.

He did avoid houses, but the actual crash site is on a hillside, an upward slope.

I will return to this crash investigation when I have time.

This was, of course, not far from Crack Hill, as recalled by Mr Reed, but the situation described may be a different crash altogether.

Christopher Short,
Barry
(ex RAF Regiment)

Crashed plane

WITH reference to a recent letter in The GEM about a plane coming down in the area, at the time I was working at the Aberthaw Cement Co.

I was in my mid-teens. A colleague living in the area came to work with the news. He also mentioned pylons being involved.

So the letter writer is not going gaga!
Mrs E Norman, Barry

'Why was floral tribute removed?'

IRECENTLY heard that floral tributes had been removed from the base of a tree in Porthkerry Park, Barry, following a complaint by just one person.

The tributes had been left by the wife, family and friends of a man who collapsed and died there suddenly and unexpectedly last April.

His wife often visits the area to feel close to her husband and it seems

a great pity that someone objected - when dog faeces, cigarette ends and other unmentionable litter, is much more offensive.

Considering this was their first Christmas without him, surely the small comfort that these tributes gave to the family could have remained?

The area is well away from any main thoroughfare and at this time of year, peace and goodwill to all should prevail. (Name and address supplied)

Solving question of the Butlins site

IRECENTLY read letters in The GEM, regarding the old Butlins site at Barry.

You have a site currently with underground services already in place, therefore civil engineering should be minimised.

There's the old bathhouse just outside the site, in a high state of disrepair, and probably requiring demolition.

This could be replaced with a new toilet shower block, with additional charges made to beach users.

What you do have is the potential to install

water, sewage and electric points for a sizable touring caravan site. Each point is capable of supplying four vans.

At a guess, you could fit approximately 100 vans with awnings comfortably on the site. This would bring an average 250/300 tourists per day to the area.

The rewards for local businesses would be very good. It would also provide seasonal employment for six to eight people.

With most tourists enjoying exploring the local area, both the Island and Barry town itself would benefit.

Colin Ensor,
Barry

Photos sought of Barry women in World War Two

IAM delighted to say that I have received many photographs and stories from your readers, in response to my requests for information for my forthcoming book on Barry and World War Two.

I am now seeking photographs and memories of women from Barry who served in the Armed Forces during World War Two, or on

home front duties such as the Land Army, Civil Defence etc, for inclusion in the book.

May I also take this opportunity to thank all those people who have responded to my appeal and who have taken time out to allow me to visit their homes, copy photographs and interview them?

It has been very much appreciated.

Readers can contact me on 07708 255 295, or at St Cyres School.

Dr Jonathan Hicks

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL JANUARY 17)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 - 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
	AM	M	PM	M
10 Thur	04.44	9.3	17.06	9.4
11 Fri	05.37	9.8	18.05	9.9
12 Sat	06.29	10.3	18.55	10.2
13 Sun	07.17	10.5	19.41	10.3
14 Mon	08.02	10.6	20.22	10.2
15 Tues	08.46	10.3	21.06	9.6
16 Wed	09.25	9.8	21.44	9.4
17 Thur	10.05	9.3	22.23	8.8

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

Primary school names award in memory of Mike Meredith



ABOVE:
Mike Meredith.

WIDELY-respected Cowbridge resident, Michael ('Mike') Meredith, who died last year, was remembered recently at Tynyrheol Primary School in the Garw Valley, when a new award was presented in his honour.

Mike had been a governor of the small school north of Bridgend for many years – he was chair of governors when he died – and had been passionate about supporting the efforts of the staff.

As a result, the school's headteacher, Martin Griffiths, contacted Mike's widow, Leo, and asked if the school could give an annual prize in his memory.

Mrs Leo Meredith



Headteacher
Martin Griffiths
presents the
shield to Teyah
Jones.

told The GEM: "Michael loved to write, and so I suggested that the award should be associated with that."

The school decided on an award for creative writing and, just before it broke up for Christmas, Leo and Mike's son, Giles, visited the school for the first presentation of the Mike Meredith Memorial Shield – which was won by Teyah Jones.

Leo Meredith said: "It was the first time Giles had visited the school, and he could see why Michael was so passionate about it."

"I can remember taking Michael to Cardiff when he was raising funds to get the school more computers. Michael spent days in

the library researching bodies that he could apply to for funding.

"Giles and I plan to continue our association with the school. Michael and I used to bring things to sell at the school fair, and I will be going back to do so again."

Mr Martin Griffiths said: "Teyah Jones was the first winner of the Mike Meredith Memorial Shield, which is given to a pupil for high standards in creative writing at our school."

"Leo and Giles Meredith attended the assembly and watched Teyah receive the shield. The assembly was followed by refreshments and a tour of the school, highlighting the very good standards of work in all the classes."

Mr Griffiths added: "Mr Meredith will be missed by all at Tynyrheol Primary School."

"He was a governor at our school for over 15 years and had been chair of governors for seven. During that time, he made a huge contribution to our school and had been a great support to me and all the staff and pupils."

"He was also responsible for fundraising when we first had our computer suite, and helped in so many ways to make Tynyrheol the school it is today."

Mrs Meredith added: "Mr Griffiths was keen to make this first award in 2012 – the year Michael died – and so it was held very late in the year."

"In future years, it will probably be awarded in the summer."

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by GEM reader
JULIE CROAD

AFTER THE VIRUS... On the mend, and looking forward (with hope) to 2013!

A HAPPY New Year to everyone, and I do hope that you all had the most wonderful Christmas.

I am afraid I missed sending out Christmas wishes to all, due to having been ill with the dreaded virus going around, one that has been hanging over me now for 10 weeks, and as it peaked and troughed it, regrettably, at times, forced me to miss out on a number of mayoral duties – getting in my copy to The GEM for Christmas, being one of them.

To those I let down, I sincerely apologise. Still, I am on the mend now and looking forward to a positive and productive 2013.

Many invitations were received during the run-up to Christmas, a candle light Christmas service at St. Mary's Church in Barry, and a spectacular Christmas concert by the Glamorgan Youth Orchestra and choir, at the City Hall, Cardiff, were among them.

However, the ones that I particularly enjoyed the most were

the local events, and the WRVS' Christmas lunch for the Monday club was a particular joy.

Meeting some of the older residents of Cowbridge, and even being treated to a sing-along by one very handsome gentleman from Borough Close, made one aware of what Christmas is really about, the warmth and sharing of kindness, friendship and the making of a family atmosphere among friends.

The WRVS do an incredible job in cooking the most wonderful Christmas lunch for all, and we should applaud them for their constant and continuing hard work and dedication to others throughout the year – year in, year out.

They even arranged a visit from Santa, albeit looking rather bedraggled from all his Christmas activities and looking like he needed some good home cooking himself to rejuvenate his weary body, ready for Christmas night.

Nevertheless, he was still fit enough to produce presents for all with a merry "Ho, Ho, Ho", which brought smiles to every face.



by Coun Nicola
Thomas, Mayor
of Cowbridge
with
Llanblethian.

Next it was Christmas morning, up with the lark, cooker on the go, fruit soaked overnight in the proverbial amount of alcohol – and the task at hand to make three dozen, fresh mince pies to take to the residents of Southway's Care Home for 11am.

So armed with a whole load of freshly-cooked mince pies and four bottles of sherry, Andrea and I set off to meet the ladies and gentlemen of Southway's.

What a delight it was to meet so many wonderful people and what

a joy to see the trouble they had taken to dress for Christmas day. One lady in the most beautiful sequined top looked quite the part for such a special day.

Their warmth and friendliness was truly humbling. It was so lovely to meet two old friends also, two local farmers from the community; and it was not long before we were able to get together and chat about the farm and how lucky we farmers are to have so many different and varied interests from our involvement with country life.

However, I came away somewhat saddened to learn that my mince pies were banned to residents on the grounds of Health and Safety Regulations and would only be acceptable if of the cardboard variety that come in sealed boxes – and the sherry, it seemed, was only allowed if diluted, to oblivion, with lemonade!

What sadness that these lovely people, in the autumn of their years, should be denied such simple pleasures on Christmas day.

Typically, it's 'Health and Safety' gone mad. Still at least the staff

were able to make use of the abandoned treats, some small consolation for having to work on Christmas day.

Well, 2013 is here, and my first concern now is to get down to selling tickets and gathering support for the forthcoming charity concert, kindly being put on for the Mayor's charity, Ty Hafan hospice for young children, by our infinitely delectable and totally-accomplished Cowbridge Male Voice Choir, to be held at Holy Cross Church on January 26.

Have you ever had the opportunity to listen to their singing in natural stereophonic mode?

Well, by special request, they have agreed to start their concert for us this way. Intrigued? Get your tickets soon to discover the choir's special effects secret!

I do hope as many of you as possible will come along and enjoy the evening and support us. Posters and tickets will be around for all to see and purchase.

Happy New Year to all and may you enjoy good health, happiness and, above all, love, warmth, comfort and friendship in the coming year.

FESTIVE CAROLLERS' WALK TO THE CASTLE ESCAPED THE RAIN!

FOR the third year, Churches Together in Cowbridge and District organised a carol-singing walk from the cattle market, across the Three Fields and up the road to St Quentin's Castle.

They were supported by musicians from the RAF St Athan Voluntary Band, led by Alan Bourne, and made a special stop for the residents of Southways Residential home.

Spokeswoman Rosemary Samuel said: "What could be more Christmassy than a great brass band and about 112 carollers singing their hearts out?"

"We were incredibly fortunate that the chosen night (December 21), was dry and, amazingly, the path across the Three Fields was firm, with just one long puddle."

"Members of the Lions Club kindly came to act as shepherds and guides, with lights and magical light sticks, which they handed out."

"Once up at the castle, there was a warming, brazier, fed by logs from a generous Pendoylan farmer, with helpers handing out hot spiced apple juice."

"Rev Heather Weddell



then read from the New Testament the account of the birth of Christ and led us in prayers.

"We finished with another really good sing of many of our favourite carols."

"Up there at the castle, in the dark, you gaze over a wonderful panorama of the lights of Cowbridge, sweeping round..."

"A special time and a lovely and simple way to prepare for the true meaning of Christmas."

"The Lions Club (pictured above) made a collection as people left, and nearly £72 was donated. With our grateful thanks, this will be shared between the Lions Club and Churches Together."

GEM NOTE:
Photographs of the carol walk are included on page 4.

Community group meets

THE newly-formed Llanblethian Community Group (LCG) is holding a public meeting at the Cross Inn, on Saturday, January 19, at 2.30pm.

Mike Bailey, a member of the group, said: "During our last public meeting in October, we promised to hold a follow-up meeting to report on progress."

"We would like to give residents feedback from the co-ordinating group, and also cover future events Llanblethian Community Group is planning for 2013."

He added: "I'd like to thank the co-ordinating group, three of our

town councillors (Geoff Cox, Sue Cox and Gwen Baty) who continue to support our fledgling group and Jane Williams from Creative Rural Communities, for all their hard work."

"We have received

acceptances to attend the meeting from Alun Cairns MP, Jane Hutt AM and Andrew RT Davies AM."

Further information on the group can be found on www.llanblethiancommunitygroup.org.uk

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Looking back at how local churches brought Christmas message to people of Cowbridge

PHOTOGRAPHS by
MIKE WILCOCK

CHURCHES in Cowbridge brought the Christmas message to young children in the area with some special 'crib services' taken by Canon Derek Belcher, the Rector of Cowbridge.

He told The GEM: "This was a time for family friends and neighbours to experience the Christmas story so that the joy of Christmas may live in their hearts.

"We also gave gifts to every child and, if possible, to adults. Holy Cross and Ystradowen Church held their crib services on Christmas Eve, and for the first time, Llanblethian Church celebrated this on the last Sunday before Christmas.

"The Llanblethian Crib service was the result of the community and church meeting together to make this happen. The service was followed by a chance to meet Santa at the Cross Inn.

Posada tradition

"Residents had contributed a present that could be given to the children, and the Santa outfit was kindly loaned by Y Bont Faen School."

He continued: "I combined the celebration of the Crib with the Mexican tradition of the Posada.

"St Francis constructed the first Christmas Crib in 1293 in the woods at Greccio, near Assisi, where he lived with his brother friars – a religious community who helped the poor and needy.

"The manger was empty and surrounded by people dressed as Mary, Joseph, with the donkey and ox. Francis wanted people to see these with their own eyes.

"The friars and the men and women of the neighbourhood brought candles and torches. When all were gathered, Francis sang the Gospel of Christmas Day, as part of the Midnight Mass.

"Greccio became a new Bethlehem. At the end of the service, it is said that there appeared a vision of Jesus that filled the empty manger.

"St Francis' idea of bringing Bethlehem into one's own town spread quickly all over the Christian world, and soon there were Christmas cribs in

churches and homes.

"The Posada is where children with Mary and Joseph and the Donkey travel around the residents of the local village and ask for room to stay.

"Mary and Joseph are finally given lodging in a stable and so the Crib service unfolds. The figures of the crib are placed around the church and move closer to the crib as Christmas day approaches.

"During the Crib carol service, the children search out the various crib figures and place them in the crib and say what present of caring and love they will give to the family and friends.

"It is also important to remember that Santa is the Christian Saint, St Nicholas, who showed God's love by caring for children and families.

"It is this inspiration that is at the basis of our understanding of Santa Claus. Crib, Posada and Santa all paint a picture of the love that is central to Christmas.

"May God's love surround you all in this New Year."



Santa at the Cross Inn.



ABOVE, BELOW and RIGHT:
Dressed up warm for the carol singing
walk from town to Llanblethian.



The RAF St Athan Voluntary Band played for the carol singers.

Opera star supports 'pop-up' fashion show



In the run up to Christmas, the international opera star, Rebecca Evans (centre) took time out of her busy schedule to support a 'pop-up' fashion event in Cowbridge Town Hall.
(Photograph by MIKE WILCOCK).



There was music in the church.

Cowbridge church reopens church hall for community



Photographs by
MIKE WILCOCK



ON Sunday, January 6, the hall at the United Free Church in Cowbridge was rededicated at a ceremony – and renamed as the 'Maendy Room'.

Rev Heather Weddell explained: "When Maendy Chapel closed and the buildings were sold nearly two years ago, substantial funds

were given to the United Free Church for community building use.

"The hall at UFC has always been well-used by various community groups but over the years the fabric had deteriorated and it was in need of significant rebuilding and refurbishment.

"These have now been undertaken through the Maendy legacy and the church's own fundraising efforts. The

hall is now a bright, warm and modern space, ideal for a birth-day party or group.

"There are new toilets, including disabled facilities, projection facilities and easy access to the building.

"We also have a friendly, accessible coffee shop, open every morning except Friday, for tea, coffee, chocolate and home-made cakes – and for lunches on a Tuesday.

"We can even arrange to come and pick you up if you would like to come along. The United Free Church has always encouraged community users.

"The hall is available for hire at reasonable rates, on a regular or seasonal basis, by contacting the bookings team through the church website, www.cowbridgeunitedfreechurch.org.uk or by telephoning 07835 447289."

Mari Lwyd y Bontfaen

COWBRIDGE locals should be on the lookout for some strange happenings tomorrow (Friday, January 11) when 'Mari Lwyd' makes its annual appearance around the town.

The 'Mari Lwyd' is a mare's skull, decorated with bells and ribbons, which was led from house to house in the depths of winter by gangs of revellers in a tradition dating back many centuries.

The Celtic people's reverence for the horse is well known and the mare's visit to farming families was said to bring fertility to the land in the year to come.

A white sheet attached to the skull is draped over the head and shoulders of the man who carries it, and a mechanism is usually rigged up allowing the jaw to be opened and closed to frighten the women and the children!

The 'Fari' in Cowbridge, which nowadays visits pubs in the towns early in January, has coloured plastic eye sockets in front of flashing light bulbs to give an eerie effect!

Traditionally, Mari was led by a man wearing a top hat or bowler,

called the sergeant, and they were joined by a gang of men and sometimes boys.

Mari knocked on the door of the farmhouse, and the men would sing:

'Wel, dyma ni'n dwad, gyfeillion diniwad,
i ofyn 'sgawn gannad i ganu'

(Well, here we come, innocent friends, to ask permission to sing)

BARD BRIBED

Inside the house, the family, and sometimes the local bard, who'd been bribed with beer to help out, would reply in verse.

A sung dialogue would then ensue, in which the Fari would demand access and the family refuse, until no-one could invent any more verses.

At this point, they would open the door and the group would be supplied with food and drink.

Legend has it that on one occasion, both groups had such prolific poets that the bardic duel continued through the night, and the Mari didn't effect entry until dawn!

The custom existed in Cowbridge until the 1930s, with the verses by then sung in English.

Mr Bill Lewis, who arranged the modern Mari's antics in the town each year, told

how he and other youngsters followed the revellers across the fields from farm to farm.

He remembered one of the verses they sang which corresponds to one of the traditional Welsh verses:

'Through bushes and briars

O'er mountains and mires

We wish you a happy new year'.



COMMUNITY NEWS
TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL
Your local correspondent is
Nancy Davidge, "Tynewydd",
Llangan. (01656) 860303

St Canna's VISITORS

to Llangan wishing to view St Canna's churchyard are advised to tread carefully, as the paths become slippery in wet weather – and please do not rest on the grave stones, as some have become unstable.

If anyone would like to view the interior of this lovely 12th century church with its modern vestry, please contact one of the following wardens: Mrs Jill Rosser (01446 772481), Mrs Ruth Williams (01656 656199) or Mr Reed, Preswylfa, Llangan.

Services are held at St Canna's on the second Sunday in the month at 11.15am (Eucharist with hymns) and on the fourth Sunday of the month at 11.15am (family service).

Children's chorus!

LIKE most schools in the Vale of Glamorgan, Llangan school reopened this week, following the Christmas holidays. I can once again hear the children

at playtime, their happy voices resounding over the fields to my home.

HUNTING BAN

OH yes, they look very attractive in their hunting gear, the hounds very friendly, but I wonder how many people watching the recent hunt parade have ever witnessed the trapping and killing of a defenceless wild animal?

I recall a harrowing incident before the hunting ban became law, quite close to my home.

The hunt had cornered a fox and ripped the terrified animal to shreds, the sound made by the humans was horrendous.

What message does this brutality send to quite young people taking part in this so-called sport?

The episode remains with me still.

The hounds are not always under the complete control of the huntsmen, and have also been known to kill domestic animals and run into private gardens.

NEWS IN BRIEF Vale AM's surgery

THE Vale of Glamorgan AM, Jane Hutt, will be holding an advice surgery on Saturday, January 12, from 10am-12noon, at Barry citizens' Advice Bureau on 119 Broad Street.

No appointment necessary.

Drop-in sessions

THERE will be a fortnightly English and maths drop-in session at Palmerston Community Learning Centre, Barry, on Wednesday afternoons from 1pm-3pm, starting on January 16.

The sessions are free of charge. For more information, call 01446 733762.

Tax help for elderly

TAXHELP for Older People will be holding advice surgeries at Old Hall, Cowbridge, on Thursday, January 17 and Pencoed library on January 22.

To book an appointment, or to access the helpline, telephone 0845 601 3321 or 01308 488066.

Home visits can also be arranged via the helpline for people unable to attend the surgery.

Bridge results

Vale of Glamorgan Bridge Club results for December 17, were as follows:

First, Anne Hughes and Graham Norris, 58.63 per cent; Second, Amy Owen and Jane Mangles, 58.44; third, Mary Moore and Liam Sheridan, 57.79; fourth, Elaine Robins and Alan Robins, 57.74; fifth, Kath Jenkins and Dennis Smith, 57.74; sixth, John Beard and John Raymond, 54.55.

The club was closed over Christmas and the New Year, reopening on the January 7 and will be competing against Barry, Pencoed, and Mid Glamorgan for the annual trophy match at Pontyclun on Saturday, January 12.

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Vale camp site owner on the attack over Vale Council tourism project

A V A L E COUNCIL project aimed at generating economic activity in the rural Vale has been attacked by a camp site owner.

Creative Rural Communities (CRC) is based in Cowbridge and oversees a range of projects aimed at regeneration.

The projects have ranged from refurbishing village halls to encouraging community gardens, and helping young entrepreneurs get new ideas off the ground.

In the main, the funds that CRC uses for projects come from the EU and the Welsh Assembly, but the group is run by the Vale Council.

The row has broken out over the 'Perfect Pitch' project, a scheme run in 2012 to enable landowners to gauge the potential for opening campsites.

In the end, five sites were operational and Mark Edwards, a camp site owner in Flemingston, insists that

the project has not only been a waste of money – but it has also harmed existing camp site owners!

In a press release just before Christmas, CRC stated that over £60,000 of revenue was generated from the project, and 20 per cent of the campers said that they would not have visited the Vale if they had not seen the Perfect Pitch website.

Mr Edwards of Happy Jake's Touring Park, said: "What they are really saying then, is that of the numbers who stayed at these sites, they displaced 80 per cent from existing campsites in the area."

The £60,000 figure is the total money spent in the Vale by these visitors. Mr Edwards' estimate is that campsite fees make up about £11,000 of that sum.

He argues that redirecting the visitors cost camp sites such as his around £8,500 – money that was much-needed during such a wet summer and a time of recession.

He also pointed out

by PHILIP IRWIN

that he has invested around £160,000 in his Flemingston site over the last three years, with £100,000 spent on a shower block with disabled access.

Mr Edwards continued: "The costs involved in bringing the £12,000 of new revenue to the Vale – 20 per cent of £60,000 – are huge."

"The five landowners had grants of £2,500 each, for a total of £12,500."

"Blue road signs were erected all over the Vale, often encouraging visitors to drive past existing sites such as mine. I would estimate the cost of that at around £3,000."

"Perfect Pitch had a website, leaflets were produced using a professional photographer, there were workshops where the chosen landowners were taken to west Wales, as well as the cost of staff time of CRC officers."

"There was also the extra cost for the people who were pulled from

their normal duties to attend workshops, including a Community Police Officer, a planning officer, two tourist board officers, a health and safety officer and a waste disposal officer.

"So, my estimate of the cost of bringing £12,000 new-spend to the Vale, is getting on for £50,000!"

"I would like to see CRC produce the actual costings of funding this project for the public to see."

He continued: "CRC has shown little consideration, with no consultation with neighbours of these sites and the effects on them."

"I believe the long-term effects on tourism in the Vale have been negative, as the CRC team stated they wanted to enhance the visitor experience, but how can being made to use plastic boxes for toilets be classed as a pleasant experience?"

"I suspect that of the 20 per cent of new visitors who experienced this type of sub-standard facilities, most will never return again."

Mr Edwards said that no jobs would be created by the Perfect Pitch plan.

He said: "How can taking revenue from existing businesses and spreading it to small sites that can be family run create jobs?"

"We were hoping to employ a full-time site manager and a part-time assistant for 2013, but have decided to shelve this until we can measure the effect this project has had on our trade."

"So, two jobs lost in the Vale."

Rob Thomas, the Vale Council's director of development services, said: "The council is aware of the concerns of Mr Edwards, having corresponded on the issues that have been raised over several months."

"While Mr Edwards' concerns are appreciated, the Perfect Pitch scheme was considered to be an entirely appropriate method to introduce new camp sites in the rural Vale, thereby assisting to promote the Vale as a tourist and visitor destination."

80 riders assemble in Cowbridge for meet



Acknowledging the crowd in Cowbridge.

THE traditional Boxing Day meet of the Glamorgan Hunt was held in Arthur John's car park, Cowbridge.

The joint master and huntsman Jacky Thomas, together with hounds and about 80 horses and ponies, set off down Cowbridge High Street watched by a crowd estimated at about 2,000.

Joint master Mike Gibbon thanked the hosts and all the supporters who had braved the inclement weather.

The cavalcade then made its way to the east to set hounds onto the now compulsory drag line.

Pictures by HEATHER MARCH



Two young Pony Club riders.

Could population growth slowdown change the LDP?

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

The Vale Council's director of development services, Rob Thomas, said: "A discussion on the number of new homes required in the Vale is premature, pending a consideration by the council on January 23 as to whether work will commence on a replacement deposit plan."

Coun Lis Burnett, cabinet member with responsibility for the LDP, appeared to be open to the possibility of a cut in the housing allocation.

SUSTAINABLE

She said: "The cabinet has made it clear that it wishes to see a replacement LDP produced for the Vale, and that the replacement plan will provide a sustainable framework for development in the Vale."

"If the full council, on January 23, supports the cabinet in its desire to produce a replacement plan, there will be sufficient opportunity to review all relevant data and to assess the housing need for the Vale."

"I remain committed to reviewing all the data that was used to inform the deposit plan, as produced by the last administration."

It certainly appears to

be a decision that is up to the Vale Council.

A Welsh Government spokesperson said: "The Welsh Government does not dictate housing targets to local authorities."

"This is a matter for local authorities and communities to determine, based on evidence."

"Local authorities are required, by law, to have an up-to-date development plan, setting out their policies and proposals for the development and use of land."

"These plans must look 15 years ahead, and identify where different types of development, such as new jobs or homes, should be located."

"Our statistical division issues trend-based population and housing projections so authorities

can ensure that they are preparing for what new homes may be required over the 15 year period."

"This is the starting point when preparing a plan, not necessarily the final figure."

"All local authorities have access to the methodology and data enabling them to formulate their own level of housing provision."

"It is perfectly acceptable for each local authority to determine their own level of growth and this is happening across Wales, provided they have the evidence."

However, having convincing evidence could be crucial.

The spokesperson continued: "It is the independent inspector who determines whether a plan is sound and can be adopted, not the Welsh Government."

Government.

"Having a plan in place provides certainty for the local community and businesses, enabling local authorities to attract the infrastructure and investment needed to support their communities."

Vale MP Alun Cairns MP commented:

"Naturally, I support any measure to reduce the housing target, but we need to remember that it was a Plaid Cymru housing Minister who came out with the original formula."

"I have long called for a smaller housing target and look to the Vale Council and the Welsh Government to respond to the demands of people from Barry and across the Vale."

Hockey team in action



Find out how this Cowbridge Comprehensive hockey team fared recently on page 35.

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'Good Samaritan' comforted driver trapped in car on Colcot Road 'MYSTERY MAN'S HELP MEANT THE WORLD TO US...'

A MOTORIST who was suspended in mid-air when his car flipped onto its side in Colcot Road, Barry, has thanked the 'Good Samaritan' who talked him through the agonising moments while he waited for the emergency services to arrive and cut him free.

The drama unfolded on December 18, when Mr Michael Johnson set off from home in his Renault Clio for an appointment at the University Hospital of Wales – and ended with him suspended in mid-air by his seat belt.

Mr Johnson (73) said: "I left home at 9.45am and the incident must have taken place at about 9.55am as I was going past Barry College."

"I ended up with the car on its left hand side and me hanging in mid-air held in by my seat belt!"

Mr Johnson can't remember what caused the accident – he sustained a bang to the

REPORT by TIM CHAPMAN

head – but no other vehicle was involved, and the police are taking no action after witnesses confirmed there was no problem with the way the car was being driven.

"I'd hit my head and couldn't move my leg which was trapped."

"I then heard a man say: 'I can't take you out until the medics arrive'."

"He asked me what my name was and I said 'Mike'. He said: 'Okay, Mike we can't get you out straightaway, but I will stay with you until the emergency services arrive'."

"I was talking to him with my eyes closed and didn't see him, although he sounded young."

"His level of care and concern was of great comfort at a difficult time."

"He kept talking to me and was very reassuring – a true Good Samaritan."

Mr Johnson's wife Jeanette, who was unwell that day and

back at home, said that in retrospect the couple think the incident could have been far worse.

"I felt he was lucky the car didn't go up in flames."

Mr Johnson said: "I'd only filled up with £55 worth of petrol the previous day and don't know much about combustion, but that thought did occur to me! The Fire Services cut me out and I didn't suffer any pain apart from some pressure on my leg."

HOSPITAL DASH
Mr Johnson was then rushed into the University Hospital of Wales for an entirely different purpose from the one he set out for.

"I want to thank the Fire Service and the hospital staff at the Heath – everyone was great."

Meanwhile, an anxious Mrs Johnson was opening the door to a police officer.

"For a moment it frightened me to death. Actually, the policeman was lovely and said Mike had been in an accident but was alright."

"I phoned my daughter-in-law Tracey who was shopping in Barry and we went straight to the hospital."

"He'd bitten his tongue and there was

lots of blood. The hospital staff had to cut away my husband's clothes and take x-rays."

IDENTITY

Mr Johnson was shaken, had suffered concussion and an injury to his foot. In all other respects, he was unscathed. He was discharged late that evening.

Mrs Johnson was amazed that his glasses remained undamaged during the whole episode.

Mr Johnson is now recuperating in his house at The Knap with its inspiring views across the Bristol Channel to the Somerset coast.

A former sales manager in the record industry, he is well known in Barry as the former owner of 'Records & Tapes' which traded in King Square from 1973 to 1987. People still stop him to have a nostalgic chat about their visits to the shop.

Christmas was understandably low key for the couple, but Mr Johnson feels that bit by bit he is recovering.

"I feel a little better each day, but my lucidity is a bit in question."

Mr and Mrs Johnson don't know the identity of the mystery helper that day, but they want him to know that his act of kindness meant the world to them.

POLICE HUNT TWO MEN AFTER RESTAURANT RAID

South Wales Police have launched a public appeal in their search for two men, after an assault and burglary at the Blue Lounge Steakhouse Restaurant on The Esplanade, Porthcawl, in which a woman was injured.

A spokesperson said this week: "The incident occurred at around 3am on New Year's Day, when two males were disturbed while inside the premises. Following their disturbance, one of

the burglars assaulted a 44-year-old woman with a bottle, injuring her face."

Detectives have issued descriptions of the two suspects: One is described as being white, around 5ft 6ins tall, of slight build with short, dark brown hair. He was wearing skinny fit dark jeans and a dark coloured T-shirt. He was aged in his late teens or early twenties.

The second male is also white and around 6ft-6ft 2ins tall, slim build, with medium brown hair, short on the sides and combed over on top. He was the same



An e-fit image of the second suspect.

age as the first male. He was wearing skinny fit tan coloured chinos and a slim fit T-shirt which was light coloured with a logo on the front and a medium blue zipped hooded top which was open.

Detective sergeant Paul Mason of Bridgend CID said: "This was a very serious assault which resulted in the victim receiving hospital treatment for her injuries. There were a number of people gathered outside the neighbouring take-away restaurant and we are appealing for anyone who may be able to assist us in apprehending those responsible to contact us."

Contact DS Mason at Bridgend CID on 01656 679518, or free and anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

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ABOVE:
The stolen clock.

Thieves steal clock from a social club

A DISTINCTIVE clock has been stolen from a social club, and police are appealing for information.

Vale police are investigating the burglary, which occurred at the RAF Club on Windsor Road, sometime between midnight on Saturday, December 29, and 10.30am the following morning.

Thieves got in through the rear of the premises and a distinctive RAF Sector wall

clock was removed.

Police have issued a photograph of the clock and are appealing for any information which could lead to its recovery.

Anyone with information concerning this theft, or who may have witnessed anything suspicious in the area on the night of December 29, is asked to contact PC Huw Longman at Penarth police station on 101 or anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

COMMUNITY NEWS ST BRIDES MAJOR

Your local correspondent is
Patricia Bevan-Morgan
(01656) 880418

GREENLINKS community bus service is running a return bus service every Monday, including bank holidays, from Llantwit Major via St Brides Major (straight through) to Tesco (Cowbridge Road), Bridgend town centre, and Princess of Wales Hospital.

Timetables and further information are available in the local post office.

FOLLOWING numerous requests, the St Brides produce market will be expanding from February, to include a few tables for bric-a-brac and home-made crafts.

For more details, call

into the library in the church hall either on Wednesday afternoons, or Saturday mornings.

The market takes place on the second Saturday of each month from 10am-12 noon.

OGMORE-BY-SEA Retired Residents Association will commence their new year session with a bar lunch at the Watermill, Ogmere village, on Thursday, January 17. New members are welcome.

NEW year birthday greetings to 'young at heart' members of the Saturday Tea and Chat Club in the church hall – Joan 93, Lilian 90, and Joe 88.

Congratulations, and a happy new year to everyone!

ELLA'S SAFETY BANNER DESIGN IS A WINNER!



ABOVE: The winner, Ella Hadley (second right) pictured together with the runners-up and Jamie Hobbs (left) and John Rogers (Vale Road Safety Officer (right)).

LOCAL pupils who won a Vale-wide Design a Banner competition, as part of the Vale's Road Safety Awards, have been revealed.

They were asked to design a banner for primary schools to remind people not to park on zig-zag lines or near school gates.

Ella Hadley, of Ysgol Gymraeg Pen y Garth, was the winner and was awarded her prize by Jamie Hobbs, Aberthaw production

manager of sponsors Celtic Ash.

Runners-up prizes were handed to Lowri and Rhianna Reynolds of St David's C/W Primary School, Colwinston; Molli Maclean of Peterston-Super-Ely Primary School and junior road safety officers from Victoria Primary School, Penarth.

The winning banners will be available for schools to hire in the New Year.

PACT meetings

BUTRILLS PACT, The Philip John Community Room, Barry Library, on January 10 at 6.30pm.

DYFAN PACT, North Walk Community Centre, on January 13 at 7pm.

COURT PACT, The Scout Hall, Ilminster Street, Barry, on January 23 at 6pm.

SULLY PACT, Jubilee Hall, Smithies Avenue, Sully, on January 10 at 8pm.

COWBRIDGE PACT, at the Fire Station, Druids Green, on January 14 at 7pm.

ST AUGUSTINE'S PACT, The Windsor Arms, Windsor Road, Penarth, on January 16 at 7pm.

LLANTWIT MAJOR PACT, Llantwit Major Leisure Centre, on January 16 at 7pm.

RHOOSE PACT, The Community Centre, Celtic Way, Rhosce, on January 17 at 7pm.

LLANDOUGH PACT, The Royal British Legion, Penlan Road, Llandough, on January 28 at 7pm.

NEWS FROM BARRY MEN'S FORUM

A tale of Samuel Pepys and the Popist plotters

FORTY New Year revellers – befuddled Barry Men's Forum members – welcomed two new members, Jim Woods and Neil Ralphs, for the first meeting of the Forum of 2013.

Those present were soon being taken through the detailed events of the 1680s which are now known as the 'Popist Plot', by Mr Frank Walley. This plot, of

which there were only two main protagonists, was supposedly hatched to kill the protestant King Charles II, and reinstate the Pope as head of the established church of Britain.

The diarist, Samuel Pepys, at the time was the very influential naval administrator, responsible for the finances of the Royal Navy, which was the largest employer in the country at the time.

He was also a Tory member of Parliament at the time when he became unwittingly involved.

False evidence was given against him by a reprobate, bribed by an unsavoury Army Colonel Scott, that Pepys was at the location of the murder of Judge Godfrey, who had earlier found a

supposed plotter innocent. Pepys and a fellow MP were sent to the Tower of London, where they languished in jail for some years. Numerous other people were sent to jail, and 16 men, supposedly plotters, were hung, drawn and quartered.

None of whom would change their evidence, which would have implicated Pepys in the conspiracy.

The ancient rights of Habeas Corpus, whereby nobody must be kept in prison without charges, eventually came to their aid and the others were eventually released. Samuel Pepys was able to return to his position as Naval Administrator, before retiring.

The speaker finished by querying whether we

had really progressed very far, with supposed terrorists being held in prison these days without charges against them?

There will be no meeting for new members on Thursday, January 17, as the forum will be holding its annual lunch, when members will be joined by wives and partners.

New members are very welcome on Thursday, January 24, at Windsor Road Church Hall, when the speaker will be Gerald Beaudette, whose subject will be 'Islands in the Bristol Channel'.

For further information about Barry Men's Forum, contact Peter Westcott on 029 2059 4881.

PMW

Roadworks round-up

Temporary traffic control: A48 at Sycamore Cross junction between Bonvilston and St Nicholas.

Road closure: College Gardens, Llantwit Major.

Temporary traffic control: Vale of Glamorgan area; A48 at Sycamore Cross junction between Bonvilston and St Nicholas.

Road closure: Church Street, Cowbridge, adjacent to Brew House; Moulton, Llancarfan; Watery Lane, Welsh St Donat's; Opposite Pleasant Farm, Llangan.

Vale cabinet to meet in Penarth

THE Vale Council will be holding its next public 'community cabinet' meeting on Monday, January 21, at 6pm in the Paget Rooms, Victoria Road, Penarth.

The public will be able to question the cabinet at the end of the meeting, which will include items of particular interest to Penarth residents.

The cabinet usually meets in public at the Civic Offices each fortnight at 2pm, but meetings are now being held regularly at community venues around the Vale.

Drop-in surgery

DYFAN Labour councillors Claire Curtis and Anthony Powell will continue monthly drop-in advice surgeries for residents of Dyfan Ward on Saturday, January 12 at the Colcot Community Centre, Keats Way, Barry, from 11am-12pm.

No appointment is necessary.

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Protestors call for a new access road, now!

THE Barry First Group is planning a "peaceful protest" on March 6, at the entrance to the Civic Offices Holton Road, Barry, at 5.30pm, calling for a new access road to Barry Island.

A spokesman said: "We at Barry First Group would like members of the public, residents of Barry and Barry Island to attend this protest in order to have a show of strength for this much-needed additional access road to the Island now – and not in five years' time as the council plans suggest."

"We are fairly sure that everyone agrees that the chaos on New Year's Day cannot and

should not happen again. The problem gets worse every year on Bank Holidays and week-ends.

"Some residents and visitors are continuously held up in traffic gridlock and can sometimes be waiting hours to get on or off the Island at these peak times."

"We pay our taxes, so we should be given priority and not let the developers take our right to priority."

"We really hope people will join and support this protest on March 6 and send a clear message to our council that we will not put up with any more delays on getting our new road to Barry Island."

Body recovered from marina

POLICE have confirmed that the body of a 57-year-old man was recovered from Penarth Marina on Friday, January 4.

The man, who has not yet been named, is believed to have lived in the local area. There are no suspicious circumstances.

Anyone with information should contact South Wales Police on 101.

CCTV arrests

CCTV monitoring aided six arrests and two street cautions in the Vale over the New Year.

Operators from the Vale Council's CCTV monitoring team contacted the police on 36 occasions, during the week ending January 6.

On January 1, police made an arrest in Barry and another in Llantwit Major, concerning criminal damage.

One person was arrested in connection with an assault in Barry on January 3.

January 5, in Barry, police made an arrest concerning driving offences.

Police in Penarth arrested one person

for an alleged assault and another for a public order offence on January 6.

On spot fines

LOCAL authority support company XF0R issued 36 fixed-penalty notices in the Vale, during the week commencing December 31.

It has been tasked by the Vale Council to help tackle dog fouling and littering incidents in the Vale and is taking a 'zero tolerance' approach to environmental crimes.

Offenders are being issued with a fixed penalty notice of £75, without warning.

VOLUNTEER FOR MARIE CURIE

I AM appealing to your readers to volunteer for Marie Curie Cancer Care's Great Daffodil Appeal – and help people with a terminal illness in south west Wales get the care they need.

We're looking for people who can donate an hour of their time this February and March to hand out the charity's iconic daffodil pin in return for donations.

Marie Curie Nurses provide free care to local people with a terminal illness in their own home, but to continue providing this vital care we need people to help make this year's Great Daffodil Appeal a success.

If you're able to donate an hour of your time to help someone in their final hours then please contact me on 01792 461435 or visit www.mariecurie.org.uk/daffodil.

Katy Tainton (Community fundraiser)

TALES FROM THE VALE...

THESE two items, in what The GEM hopes will be a regular series, are taken from the book 'The Vale of Glamorgan, Scenes and Tales among the Welsh', and the explanatory notes are by Angharad Wynne.

The observations were made in the early 1800s by an anonymous Welshman, who was known to lawyers in Lincoln's Inn, London. He was described as "a tall, solitary old gentleman who visited his native Vale of Glamorgan every long vacation". His notebook was published in book form in 1839 after his death, and is still available.

A WRECK ONE notebook entry recalls the Wrecking of the 'Mary' when she was driven ashore on the Glamorgan coast.

The Bristol Channel, with its huge tidal range, can be dangerous water, and it was notoriously treacherous to navigate, due to rocks, sandbanks and Glamorgan's renowned wreckers, who would lure unsuspecting ships with lanterns tied to sheep on the cliffs. This would mislead mariners to thinking the lights were those of other ships sailing in a channel or safe water nearer the land.

The account relates how the author sees a group of people passing the window of his coastal cottage one morning during stormy weather. On enquiring where they are headed, he is told "A Wreck!". He follows them to the beach.

"What a sight it was! There was the poor vessel... beam-ends upon a reef of rocks... All along the beach were hundreds of people, watching for the things that the tide washed from the vessel... There were casks, boxes, lemons, oranges, spars and planks floating, like chopped leeks... upon the face of a dish of broth."

He recalls a cask floating towards the shore and

each door in turn, the party would sing some introductory verses.

Then came a battle of wits (known as pwncu) in which the people inside the door and the Mari party outside exchanged challenges and insults in rhyme.

At the end of the battle the Mari party bounded in with her attendants. After dancing and feasting on cake and ale, the Mari Lwyd party departed, offering a farewell verse outside the closed door, singing 'thanks for their good cheer, and a prayer that prosperity and happiness, long life and health and a well

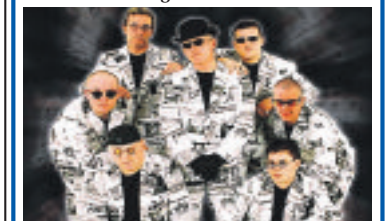
stored cellar and plentiful living, might long continue to be the lot of the hospitable dwellers under that roof.'

The Mari Lwyd is enjoying a revival, and from Llantrisant to Llangynwyd. In a fact, the 'Grey Mare' will be visiting pubs in Cowbridge tomorrow, Friday, January 11.

Contact Creative Rural Communities on 01446704828 or email Helen Blackmore on hblackmore@vale-ofglamorgan.org.uk if you would like to discuss any heritage project or resurrect any old events in your locality.



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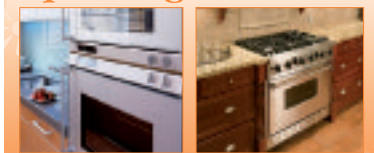
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Christ College goes from strength to strength!

CHRIST COLLEGE Brecon, one of Wales' oldest and most respected independent schools, started the academic year with strong growth in pupil numbers and with exciting plans both for the current school year and beyond. Recent A level results saw 76% of all A Level grades at A*-B with an overall A*-E pass rate of 99.5%.

These results formed the basis for pupils' successes in gaining places on a range of prestigious courses, from Chemistry at Oxford to Philosophy at Durham and from Medicine at Cardiff to Veterinary Science at Bristol.

The school has recently added to its already rich offering by introducing Psychology and Travel and Tourism at A level and the added offer of a Mandarin activity for all ages. A new system of personal tutoring in the Sixth Form has also been introduced to ensure every pupil is mentored and guided through those crucial final two years as they face the challenging terrain of university applications and decisions about their future.

Christ College recently unveiled a multi-million pound investment programme to celebrate its 475th Anniversary in 2016. This will include a £2m investment for Y Neuadd Goffa : Memorial Hall theatre to create a new, dramatic and multi-function space for school events, performances and conferences, which will also be available to the wider community on its completion in 2013.

At the same time, Christ College has announced that planning is underway to establish a Junior School.

Head of Christ College Emma Taylor said: "For many years Christ College has considered opening a junior school, or junior section. Earlier this year the school commissioned some market research into the feasibility of extending our teaching range below the age of 11, and the enthusiastic feedback from this research, as well as the changing nature and shape of the school over time, has encouraged us to make a decision in principle to go ahead and develop plans for teaching junior forms."

She added: "We are inviting expressions of interest from prospective parents in the near future and these will help us with our planning."

As well as celebrating the milestone anniversary, the developments reflect the school's charitable status and the commitment it is making to support the local community as much as possible. Mrs Taylor said that the planned investments would consolidate the position of the school as a provider of excellent all round education and an active participant in the community of Brecon and beyond.

Christ College will be holding their Sixth Form Scholarship Assessments on Thursday and Friday 17th and 18th January and their Year 7 and 9 Entrance and Scholarship Assessments on Friday and Saturday 1st and 2nd February. For further information or to register your interest, please contact the Admissions Registrar on 01874 615440 or via admissions@christcollegebrecon.com.

What is the **most important decision** you will make this year?

SIXTH FORM SCHOLARSHIPS & ENTRANCE ASSESSMENTS
Thursday 17th & Friday 18th January 2013

YEAR 7 & 9 SCHOLARSHIPS & ENTRANCE ASSESSMENTS
Friday 1st & Saturday 2nd February 2013

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- Excellent modern facilities for teaching, sport and the arts, with a new £2m Creative Arts Centre due to open in September 2013

For more information visit www.christcollegebrecon.com or contact the Admissions Registrar, on 01874 615440 or email admissions@christcollegebrecon.com

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PENARTH AND DISTRICT RAMBLERS

Where past and present merge in Cardiff Bay

THE only way it seemed to keep the boots clean while partaking in a good walk, was to visit Cardiff Bay – and the 16 walkers who joined Ann for the trip enjoyed both, with some sunshine thrown in.

Pont y Werin led them across the River Ely – and beginning their circumnavigation of Cardiff Bay passing newly-developed areas, the group made their way to the second river that feeds Cardiff Bay, the River Taff.

From Clarence Road Embankment, the group crossed Hamadryad Park and into the Wetland

Reserve, opened in 2002 on land that was previously a salt marsh, which (after the barrage was opened) compensated for the fact the mud-flats were lost and attracts a huge assortment of birds.

Then past St David's Hotel with its sweeping sail-topped roof to reach the Mermaid Quay, which is endowed with bars, restaurants, shops and galleries.

The past is represented by the terracotta bricked Pierhead Building, built in 1897 and designed by William Frame, whose mentor William Burgess refurbished Castell Coch.

In 1897, it was renamed the Cardiff Railway Company and a coat of arms bears their motto *Ddwr a Than* (by

fire and water) and it became the administrative office for the Port of Cardiff.

Standing next door is the Senned or National Assembly building, which has three floors and was opened by the Queen on St David's Day 2006, with its modern glass façade and timber ceiling.

Crossing the bridge above Roald Dahl Plaza, the group reached the Norwegian church, where Dahl was baptised – constructed to serve the Norwegian community from 1868 and is a real landmark as it is painted white.

Nearby stands the Scott Memorial by Jonathan Williams, a mosaic in blue and white, with Scott ploughing south towards the pole and the faces of his four co-explorers ice-bound, and very poignant in the fact that Scott was beaten to the South Pole by Roald Amundsen a Norwegian.

In 2002, between Queen Alexandra Dock and Penarth Head, the Cardiff Barrage was constructed to make a huge lake, where in June 2008, the public were finally allowed access.

Swiss artist Felice Varini was commis-

sioned to produce a piece of public art and three yellow ellipses were painted onto the locks and gates of the barrage in perfect symmetry, with professional climbers completing the more difficult parts.

Making their way back through Penarth Marina with its collection of boats all safely moored for the winter, the group returned to Cogan Leisure centre by lunch time.

On January 12, meet at 9am at Cogan Leisure Centre, for a 9-mile hard walk to Fan y Big from Torpantau; contact Robin on 029 2051 4051.

On January 13, meet at 9am at the Barry Waterfront, for a 9-mile moderate walk at Gower taking in Oxwich and Horton; contact Joy on 01446 737131.

On January 15, the mid-week walk will leave Cogan at 9.30am for a 9-mile easy walk at the Gwent wetlands and RSPB centre; contact William on 01446 747239.

Membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2025 5102.

JOY STRANGWARD

Young Vale Show volunteers are rewarded with bursaries

THE Vale of Glamorgan Agricultural Society has announced the winners of its bursary awards for 2012.

The awards were the idea of John Arnott, a director and life member of the society.

He felt the society owed a great debt to the young people who give up their time voluntarily during the summer to help out at the Vale Show.

The award is made to help the volunteers further their education or careers. Applications for the award must be received one month following the Vale of Glamorgan Show.

The criteria is that all applicants must spend time working for the society and are between the ages of 16 and 26.

Six bursaries were awarded this year to: Louise Edwards, Llandow; Isolde Whittaker, St. Brides-super-Ely; Lauren Evans, Llancafarn; Harry Gibson, Llancafarn; Ieuan Rosser, Llansannor; and Tom Rees, Pendoylan.

A spokeswoman said: "The society is extremely grateful to all the recipients for volunteering at the show and wish them every success in their future careers."



Next year, the show will be held on Wednesday, August 21, and organisation is well under way.

The society is delighted to welcome the Kangaroo Kid back to Wales as the main ring display – he and his son will be amazing the crowd with their motor cycling skills in the main ring.

Further details of the show can be seen on www.valeofglamorganshow.co.uk or contact Nicola on 01446 710099, or e-mail vale.show@btinternet.com

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HISTORIC DYFFRYN GARDENS STARTS NEW CHAPTER UNDER NATIONAL TRUST

DYFFRYN House and Gardens in the Vale of Glamorgan have been officially handed over to the care of the National Trust.

The Grade II-listed house and its impressive gardens will be managed by the National Trust on a 50-year lease, although the property will still be owned by the Vale Council.

The gardens were reopened to the public on Friday, and it was announced that five rooms in the Grade II house will be opened to the public this year.

Mike Calnan, the Trust's head of gardens said: "The National Trust is proud and honoured to be taking over stewardship of this very special Welsh garden.

"Dyffryn is an exceptional example of Edwardian garden design – with Thomas Mawson, garden designer – working closely with his gifted client John Cory.

"The gardens are subdivided into a number of garden 'rooms' each with its own distinct horticultural character.

"These are surrounded by a pleasure ground of sweeping lawns dotted with statuary, water fea-

tures, a rockery and kitchen garden and many rare and exceptional trees, including some of the UK's 'champions'.

"With so many features within the garden, there is certainly plenty for visitors of all ages to enjoy."

Justin Albert, Director of the National Trust in Wales, said: "Growing and shaping a glorious garden is a long-term project. The work done so far by all those involved with Dyffryn Gardens since its incep-

tion – the Cory family, Thomas Mawson, The Vale Council, Cadw and Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) – has produced an amazing site.

"The passion that has gone into creating Dyffryn Gardens over the years – from volunteers, staff and supporters – cannot be taken for granted.

"We want everyone to join with us in harnessing that passion for a new

stage of Dyffryn's journey."

Coun Gwyn John, the Vale Council cabinet member for leisure, parks, culture and sports development, said the handover is an important move to secure the future of the house and gardens and a boost for local tourism.

He said: "The council has undertaken a great deal of work to restore the house and gardens since acquiring the property in 1996.

"As well as restoring the gardens and glasshouses, we have developed excellent visitor facilities and undertaken work to protect the fabric of the house.

"The property will have an exciting future as part of the National Trust's portfolio and we look forward to seeing the gardens and house developed further, which will benefit tourism in the Vale and secure the future of this important

and historic estate.

"I'd like to thank all our staff who have worked on the project, and the Heritage Lottery Fund for the support they have given us over the years. We look forward to a long and successful partnership with the Trust."

Jennifer Stewart, the head of HLF in Wales, said: "Dyffryn House and Gardens is one of Wales's most significant heritage gems.

"We are delighted that the investment of more than £6 million of lottery funding will now be sustained through the expertise and experience of the National Trust.

"We will continue to work closely with the team at Dyffryn House and Gardens and the National Trust, and look forward to seeing the re-opening of the house in 2013."



Planting an oak tree to mark the start of the National Trust's 50-year lease of Dyffryn Gardens from the Vale Council (from left, Coun Gwyn John, Justin Albert, National Trust director for Wales, Coun Lis Burnett and Keith James OBE, chairman of the National Trust, Wales).

St Donat's concert

ST DONAT'S church is holding a candle-lit concert by musicians and singers from Atlantic College on Sunday, January 27 at 4pm.

Tickets £4 (including refreshments) from Nickleby's Bookshop, church members or at the door.

Proceeds will go to the church heating fund and the Shalom Project, South Africa.



NOTICE OF PROPOSAL TO ADOPT PRIVATE SEWERS AND LATERAL DRAINS

To: The owner(s) of private sewers and private lateral drains which were made to communicate with a public sewer or public lateral drain vested in Dwr Cymru between the dates of 1 July 2011 and the 1 October 2012.

Dwr Cymru Cyfyngedig ("Dwr Cymru") gives notice under Sections 102 and 105A of the Water Industry Act 1991 ("the Act") that in accordance with a supplementary scheme made by the Welsh Ministers under the Water Industry (Schemes for Adoption of Private Sewers) Regulations 2011 ("the Transfer Regulations"):

On 1 April 2013:

any private sewer (excluding pumping stations and highway drains or sewers) situated within Dwr Cymru's sewerage area and which was made to communicate with the public sewer immediately after the 1 July 2011 and immediately before the enactment of section 42(1) of the Flood And Water Management Act 2010 on the 1 October 2012, any private lateral drain (excluding pumping stations) which was made to communicate with the public sewer immediately after the 1 July 2011 and immediately before the enactment of section 42(1) of the Floods And Water Management Act on the 1 October 2012,

On 1 October 2016, any pumping station which forms part of such a sewer or lateral drain and has not been transferred to Dwr Cymru before that date; will transfer to Dwr Cymru and become a public sewer or public lateral drain belonging to Dwr Cymru unless that private sewer or private lateral drain is subject to an outstanding appeal under Section 105B of the Act.

This notice does not apply to private sewers or private lateral drains which:

are owned by a railway undertaker; or are situated on or under Crown land and Dwr Cymru has received notice in writing before 1 October 2012 from the appropriate authority that the private sewer or private lateral drain should be exempt.

Any owner of a private sewer, private lateral drain or pumping station or any other person affected by the proposal to adopt a private sewer, private lateral drain or pumping station, or the failure to do so, may appeal to the Water Services Regulation Authority (Ofwat) within 2 months of service or publication of this notice, whichever is the later. The grounds on which you can appeal are set out in Section 105B(3) of the Act. Ofwat can be contacted at: Centre City Tower, 7 Hill Street, Birmingham, B5 4UA, or by email to: appealtransfer@ofwat.gsi.gov.uk

Any terms used in the Transfer Regulations have the same meaning when used in this notice.

Nicola Williams
Company Secretary

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HYSBYSIAD O GYNIGIAD I FABWYSIADU CARTHFFOSYDD PREIFAT A DRAENIAU OCHROL

I: Y perchennog (perchnogion) carthffosydd preifat a draeniau ochrol preifat a wnaed i gysylltu gyda charthffos gyhoeddus neu draen ochrol gyhoeddus a roddwyd i Dwr Cymru rhwng dyddiadau'r 1af o Orffennaf, 2011 a'r 1af o Hydref, 2012.

Mae Dwr Cymru Cyfyngedig ("Dwr Cymru") yn rhoi hysbysiad o dan Adranau 102 a 105A Deddf Diwydiant Dwr 1991 ("y Ddeddf") mai yn unol â chynllun atodol a wnaed gan Weinidogion Cymru o dan Reoliadau'r Diwydiant Ddr (Cynlluniau ar gyfer Mabwysiadu Carthffosydd Preifat) 2011 ("y Rheoliadau Trosglwyddo"):

Ar y 1af o Ebrill, 2013:

y bydd unrhyw garthffos breifat (ac eithrio gorsafoddd pwpio a draeniau neu garthffosydd prifffordd) a leoli o fewn ardal garthffosiaeth Dwr Cymru ac a wnaed i gysylltu gyda'r garthffos gyhoeddus yn syth ar ôl y 1af o Orffennaf, 2011 ac yn syth cyn ymddeddiad adran 42(1) Deddf Rheoli Llifogydd a Dwr 2010 ar y 1af o Hydref, 2012, unrhyw draen ochrol ochrol breifat (ac eithrio gorsafoddd pwpio) a wnaed i gysylltu gyda'r garthffos gyhoeddus yn syth ar ôl y 1af o Orffennaf, 2011 ac yn syth cyn ymddeddiad adran 42(1) y Ddeddf Rheoli Llifogydd a Ddr ar y 1af o Hydref, 2012,

Ar y 1af o Hydref, 2016, unrhyw orsaf bwmpio sy'n ffurfio rhan o garthffos neu draen ochrol o'r fath ac nad ydych chi'i throsglwyddo i Dwr Cymru cyn y dyddiad hwnnw; yn trosglwyddo i Dwr Cymru ac yn dod yn garthffos gyhoeddus neu'n draen ochrol gyhoeddus sy'n eiddo i Dwr Cymru oni bai bod y garthffos breifat neu'r draen breifat honno yn destun apêl sydd eto i'w gwneud o dan Adran 105B y Ddeddf.

Nid yw'r hysbysiad hwn yn gymwys i garthffosydd preifat nac i draeniau ochrol preifat sydd:

yn eiddo i ymgymwr rhwyffordd; neu sydd wedi'u lleoli ar neu o dan dir y Goron a bod Dwr Cymru wedi derbyn hysbysiad yn ysgrienedig cyn y 1af o Hydref 2012 oddi wrth yr awdurdod priodol y dylai'r garthffos breifat neu'r draen ochrol breifat gael ei heithrio.

Fe all unrhyw perchennog carthffos breifat, draen ochrol breifat neu orsaf bwmpio neu unrhyw berson arall yr effeithir arno gan y cynigiad i fabwysiadu carthffos breifat, draen ochrol breifat neu orsaf bwmpio, neu os methir â gwneud hynny, apelio at yr Awdurdod Rheoleiddio Gwasanaethau Dwr (Ofwat) o fewn 2 fis o wasanaeth neu o gyhoeddi'r hysbysiad hwn, pa un bynnag a ddaw hwyrach. Mae'r seiliau y gallwch apelio arnynt yn cael eu nodi yn Adran 105B(3) y Ddeddf. Fe ellir cysylltu ag Ofwat yn: Centre City Tower, 7 Hill Street, Birmingham, B5 4UA, neu drwy anfon e-bost at: appealtransfer@ofwat.gsi.gov.uk

Mae gan unrhyw dermau a ddefnyddir yn y Rheoliadau Trosglwyddo yr un ystyr â phan gânt eu defnyddio yn yr hysbysiad hwn.

Nicola Williams
Ysgrifennydd y Cwmni

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Heol Pentwyn
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OBITUARY RHYS WILLIAMS, LLANCARFAN

Respected point-to-point horseman

RHYS WILLIAMS, formerly of Aberogwm Farm, Llanccarfan, died on December 30 after a short illness.

The loving father of Evan and Helen Williams, Rhys will always be associated with Glanville Jones's *Norther*, which he rode to success in several point-to-points, before the horse went on to win the Golden Miller Handicap Chase at Cheltenham and the 1965 Welsh Grand National at Chepstow, with Terry Biddlecombe in the saddle.

Rhys used to ride out on *Norther* every day for Cowbridge trainer Denzil Jenkins and on two occasions, when partnering *Norther* in point-to-points, he beat *Snowdra Queen*, which went on to win the United Hunts Chase at

the Cheltenham National Hunt Festival in 1966.

Ironically, the horse *Snowdra Queen* beat was *Mr Worth*, owned by St Athan's Jack Thomas, and ridden by Castleton's Bill Jones.

Mike Thomas, who rode regularly against Rhys in point-to-points, said:

"Rhys was not only a good jockey but also a good horseman."

Another good point-to-pointer Rhys was successful with *Trunks*, on which he won a hunter chase at Warwick at very long odds.

One of the last horses I can remember Rhys winning on was *Arctic Lily*, which I believe he bred himself.

Interment took place at Zoor Presbyterian Church on Tuesday (January 8).

BRIAN LEE

'Police spread too thin in Vale'

A BARRY councillor is calling on the new Police Commissioner for south Wales to "commit more to neighbourhood policing".

Richard Bertin (Independent) has spoken with officers from South Wales Police who expressed concerns about cuts to frontline policing.

"They say too much of their time is spent on form-filling, book-keeping and backroom work and not enough time on our streets," he said.

Coun Bertin has written to the new PCC, for

South Wales, Alun Michael.

"The number of neighbourhood police staff in the town of Barry has considerably reduced over a number of years to such an extent they would seriously struggle if there was a major incident in the town.

"It also means that as frontline police officers are so thinly spread, they have to go into other areas to support colleagues, leaving their areas with skeleton staff. If Alun Michael was to bolster the response teams this would relieve the neighbourhood teams of their duties and allow them to operate more proactively."

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In Business Update

Could you benefit from an extra income?

IT'S easier than you may have thought – with no outlay or inconvenience. Sharon and Beverley are enrolling host families to take in foreign students on a very flexible arrangement – long-term (September to July) or short-term.

If you wish to earn a secondary income for 'just being a family', they would love to hear from you.

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Care 4 Pets has to start early!

DID you have a dog for Christmas, or do you have a dog that is becoming matted?

Breeds have changed considerably over the years, with many breeders mixing popular breeds to create new ones – although these dogs look beautiful, they can bring with them grooming problems.

Alison Moya, of Care 4 Pets, says: "It is essential that puppies are introduced to grooming early, and we offer a free consultation service for owners at our salon at Park Crescent, Barry.

"We encourage own-

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"This takes around five minutes, but is a really useful exercise."

For information on Care 4 Pets grooming, dog walking, home boarding and visiting services, call 01446 744633.

Mucky dog wash from just £7.99 for miniature breeds; free puppy introduction to grooming for dogs under 16 weeks; free grooming advice consultation for all dog owners; services include dog home boarding, walking, home visits and house sitting.

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Passmores Solicitors secures Law Society's new quality mark

PASSMORES in Barry has secured membership to the Law Society's Conveyancing Quality Scheme – the mark of excellence for the home-buying process.

Passmores underwent rigorous assessment by the Law Society in order to secure CQS status, which marks the firm out as meeting high standards in the residential conveyancing process.

Law Society president Lucy Scott-Moncrieff said that the Society introduced CQS to promote high standards in the home-buying process.

"CQS has established itself as the quality mark of the home-buying sector and enables consumers to identify practices that provide a quality residential conveyancing service."

"With so many different conveyancing service providers out there, CQS helps home-buyers and sellers seek out those that can provide a safe and efficient level of service."

Miss Carli Evans said: "Passmores is delighted to have secured CQS status. Buying and selling a home can be a stressful time. Choosing a solicitor to help in that process just got easier. By looking for a CQS firm like Passmores, the

public can seek out a firm that has proved its commitment to quality.

"The overall beneficiaries will be clients who use Passmores when buying a home. They will receive a reliable, efficient service, as recognised by the CQS standard."

The scheme requires practices to undergo a strict assessment, compulsory training, self reporting, random audits and annual reviews in order to maintain CQS status.

It is open only to members of the Law Society who meet the demanding standards set by the scheme and has the support of the Council of Mortgage Lenders, the Building Societies Association, Legal Ombudsman and the Association of British Insurers.

For more information on the Law Society's Conveyancing Quality Scheme, visit www.law-society.org.uk/cqs.

Contact the CQS Unit on 020 7316 5550 or CQS@lawsociety.org.uk

Passmores are based at 21 Tynwydd Road, Barry, Vale of Glamorgan, CF62 8HB, www.passmores.com. Please contact us on 01446 721000 or by email mail@passmores.com for further information.



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vides super-fast broadband in the Vale of Glamorgan, with speeds up to 18Mbps.

The Welsh Government is offering a grant up to £1,000 for people who currently have less than 2Mbps to get this service.

One customer, S Blackman, said: "I've just updated my iPhone software and instead of seven-eight hours, it has taken

just 11 minutes with my new connection.

"I appreciate that the iPhone updates vary in complexity, but I think this time saving really illustrates the benefits of the Konek-T Broadband solution to us non-technical users."



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ADIVORCE can be an emotional and stressful time, with issues of how to divide financial assets, and future contact with children being two of many.

It does not necessarily mean that there will be a long and costly court process to resolve the issues.

It may be that legal guidance is only required at certain stages of the process.

For example, advice may be needed on how best to proceed when there is little equity in the matrimonial home, and there are young children to accommodate, which makes the question of whether to place the property on the market for sale a difficult decision.

Glamorgan Law LLP can help in a variety of ways with the process.

Contact the family law team on 01446 771742.

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Help at hand for couples separating

CONSIDERING divorce or separation may be worried about the cost, and whether they may have to go to court.

It may be reassuring to know that often the parties can avoid court proceedings. If their differences can be sorted out with the help of a solicitor, or through mediation.

This month, the Government announced an additional £10 million investment to enable more couples to have access to mediation.

Your solicitor can refer

you to a mediator and give advice during and after the process.

If you are separating, but are concerned about the cost, contact local solicitor Hayley Brain,

who can offer a fixed fee initial interview, and explain what options are available.

Telephone 07539 339888 or visit www.hayleybrain.co.uk.

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TAKE the example of Steve Clarke, foster carer with Action for Children. A dad of two grown children, Steve had been employed in banking for 21 years before running his own successful fast food restaurant.

Wanting a new challenge in life, Steve thought about foster care. Why the huge leap from a business background?

Well, according to Steve, he "want-

ed a new, meaningful career, but one which did not involve meeting financial targets and managing staff."

As he had always enjoyed being around children, fostering seemed the perfect choice.

Steve has now been working with Action for Children since 2010.

If you think you have what it takes to help transform a young life, do something meaningful this year. Foster.

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as long as it takes

Huw's return to Frimley Green



THIS week, the eyes of the sporting world have turned to the Lakeside Country Club at Frimley Green, Surrey, where the Darts World Championships are being held.

Barry has its own interest in the event, with young referee Huw Ware taking part.

Before setting off for darts' most famous venue, Huw (19) told The GEM: "The tournament kicks off the British Darts Organisation's 40th anniversary celebration and is being held from

January 5 to January 13. There are 32 players competing for the £100,000 first prize."

Huw impressed the darts' authorities so much with his handling of matches that he was first asked to referee at Frimley Green last year.

This year's tournament started off with a shock. The defending champion, Dutchman Christian Kist, crashed out in the opening round!

Barry at War group boosted by Kick-Start

THE Barry at War Group has been awarded a Kick-Start Grant from the Vale Centre for Voluntary Services, to help the group to buy much needed display equipment.

Barry at War Group chairman Ade Pitman told the GEM: "This equipment will be used by the group to present the area's wartime heritage, both at our Glamorgan War Time Heritage Centre home and also at the many lectures that our team give to groups across the county."

"The equipment will also be used to provide support to the many other local history groups that we work with, but it's not just the money that is a boost to our work."

"The awarding of the Kick-Start grant is recognition of the work carried out by our small group of volunteers, who have worked more than 450 man-hours since being loaned the room by the Barry Tourist Railway in October."

"The Kick-Start grant is a tangible pat on the back to these dedicated volunteers and the work that they do for our community. Their hard work is area regeneration in action."

Ade continued: "The Kick-Start grant is provided by the Vale Centre for Voluntary Services (VCVS), who support voluntary groups across the Vale. They have been extremely helpful, and without a doubt, the Barry at War Group would not be able to deliver our exhibitions and other heritage work to the community without their continued support."

Clive Curtis from VCVS added: "We are pleased that we have been able to support this project through the

Kick-Start funding scheme. It's always good to know that the funding is being put to good use and we wish the project every success."

The Glamorgan War Time Heritage Centre, located at Barry Island Railway Station, opens its doors again on Sunday, January 13, when the South West Armoured Group will be exhibiting their radio-controlled tanks and inviting visitors to learn about these and the real tanks that they represent.

The event runs from 11am until 3pm and admission is free.

Ade concluded: "Barry at War Group hopes that the new Glamorgan War Time Heritage Centre that we have created in partnership with the Barry Tourist Railway becomes a community facility for local groups with similar interests, so that everyone benefits from the region's only wartime heritage attraction."

"Our open days are proving popular with both old and young alike, and our Heritage Lottery funded recording equipment is regularly capturing the memories of those people who experienced the Second World War."

"However, the centre isn't only about this aspect of the region's heritage, and our volunteers are currently creating a First World War 'trench experience'. As funds allow, we're aiming to create this and even more interactive exhibits that can inspire and educate the next generation of historians."

To find out more about the Glamorgan War Time Heritage Centre, see the new website at www.wartimeglamorgan.co.uk or telephone Ade Pitman on 07930 874161.

Everyone's Future partners against discrimination

EVERYONE'S FUTURE, an intergenerational partnership between Vibe Experience and Age Concern Cardiff and the Vale, is being funded by the Big Lottery until 2014.

Two new age equality workers are aiming to tackle negative stereotyping and challenge age discrimination of younger and older people.

As part of the project, Everyone's Future Working Group has been set up with project staff, older people, young people and professionals.

It will help shape the project, assist at events, and may form the catalyst for more future proj-

ects. A spokeswoman reported: "The first meeting in November was a huge success, but we're still looking for older and younger people to volunteer their time to help tackle the important issues of the project."

The second meeting will be held on January 15 at The Cardiff Trinity, The Old Library, Trinity Street, Cardiff, at 4pm.

For more information, contact Louise David, age equality worker (young people) via email louise@vibexperience.com or call 01446 700622 or Hannah Lewis, age equality worker (older people) by e-mail hannah.lewis@age-concern-cardiff.org.uk or 02920 683694.

Holocaust Book of Commitment is signed by MP

VALE MP Alun Cairns this week signed a Book of Commitment in the Commons, pledging support for Holocaust

Memorial Day, and honouring those who died in the World War Two Nazi genocide in which 6 million Jews perished.

Sunday, January 27, will mark the 68th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the Nazi concentration and extermination camp, which is the site of the largest mass murder in history.

In signing the Book of Commitment, Mr Cairns paid tribute to those who died and honoured the "extraordinary Holocaust survivors, who work tirelessly to educate young people about what they endured," through the Holocaust Educational Trust's Outreach programme.

In the weeks leading up to and after Holocaust Memorial Day, thousands of commemorative events will be arranged by schools, faith groups and community organisations across the country, remembering all the victims of the Holocaust and subsequent genocides.

This year, people will also be encouraged to honour those communities that have been destroyed by genocide and reflect on the importance of coming together to oppose prejudice and hatred.

Mr Cairns explained: "Holocaust Memorial Day is an important opportunity to remember the victims of the Holocaust and subsequent genocides."

"I encourage all constituents to mark the day and to join members of community in the fight against

prejudice and intolerance."

Karen Pollock MBE, chief executive of the Holocaust Educational Trust, commented:

"We are proud that Alun Cairns is supporting Holocaust Memorial Day this year."

"It is vitally important that we both remember and learn from the appalling events of the Holocaust – as well as ensuring that we continue to challenge all forms of hatred and bigotry."

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Out and About with The GEM



by GARETH JAMIESON

Follow Screen Talk on Twitter - @GEMScreenTalk

Tsunami movie 'lacks an emotional core'

GIVEN Hollywood's love of all things dramatic and real-life, they've shown tremendous restraint as regards the Boxing Day tsunami of 2004 that caused such devastation.

While Clint Eastwood's mediocre Hereafter touched upon

the disaster, it has taken until now for a film to deal exclusively with what happened on that fateful day.

The Impossible tells the story of a couple (Ewan McGregor and Naomi Watts) and their children, who are caught up in the full maelstrom. When they are split up by the tsunami, the family must be strong to survive in the hope that they will hopefully, be reunited...

True-life stories are notoriously difficult to bring to the big screen, especially when it comes to something that affected millions of people, with the impact still being felt now for many families.

Director JA Bayona hasn't shied away from telling this story of hope. The Impossible is a brutal, hard-to-watch film that never lets up the emotional drama, but it ultimately feels paper-thin and poorly acted. Bayona's focus on the story not allowing any room to manoeuvre in what is a draining film.

Following a perfunctory set-up which allows us to see the nature of the family we'll be following through the film, Bayona unleashes his centrepiece early on, with a stunningly rendered re-enactment of the tsunami hitting.

It is a jaw-dropping and heart-stopping set-piece that will leave you breathless while watching, such is the intensity and ferocity of it, and Bayona's skill in creating such a piece with a small budget is a testament to his abilities as a director.

The aftermath is also shockingly realised, as the carnage is there for all to see - bodies, vehicles, boats, all strewn across what was once land - and again, Bayona and his team realise this incredibly well.

From there on, the film plays as an against-the-odds story, one given extra emotion and power by the fact that it is true, but also one that simply hits the checklist of cinematic clichés.

While the emotion never fails to be ramped up by the situation, the story doesn't move in quite the same way, feeling all too one-note and straightforward.

The peril is there, but there is never that tension that things won't work out in the end, no real drama or conflict; instead it plays as a heartbreaking, yet pat, tale.

It isn't helped by performances that feel tired and dull well before the disaster strikes; I don't think I've ever seen Ewan McGregor or Naomi Watts so mediocre in a long time, with the young boys playing their sons, in particular Tom Holland, outshining the older performers with deft skill and aplomb.

There is no questioning that the true-life story which inspired The Impossible is an incredible one, but it's a shame that bringing it to the big screen has turned it into one that feels overly homogenised (and that's without mentioning that the Spanish family this happened to have become blonde haired and blue-eyed in the film).

Aside from JA Bayona's strong direction, The Impossible feels less like a triumph of human spirit and more like emotional manipulation.

VERDICT: - It may tug the heartstrings, but The Impossible would struggle to resonate without such emotional subject matter. While JA Bayona's direction is strong, weak turns and a poor script take an unbelievable story and make it seem all too

'Hollywood-ised'. **POOR.**
SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: World Trade Centre (2006), Titanic (1997).

WHAT'S ON AND WHERE

Ogmore advice

OGMORE MP Huw Irranca Davies will be holding a surgery tomorrow, (Friday, January 11) between 1pm-1.45pm at Pontycymmer OAP, followed by street surgeries in the area.

AM's surgery

ELUNED PARROTT, AM for South Wales Central, will hold an advice surgery on January 11 at Morrisons Supermarket, Penny Way, Barry, between 1pm and 2pm.

Market music at Peterston

THIS Saturday (January 12) from 10am-12noon, Peterston Village Market will be selling all the usual produce and baked goods, plants and books, while a gift rehoming stall will be selling unwanted presents and gifts.

All proceeds from this month's market will be donated to the 'Beach Buses' charity, set up by Glenda Clwyd, a professional harpist, to take children who have never seen the sea, to spend a day at the seaside.

Glenda will perform in the church and community hall during the morning.

Weavers' workshop

THE Glamorgan Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers will meet on January 12 at 10am-4pm with an open workshop at the Scout Hall, Dinas Powys.

For further details, contact Kirsten Gable on 01443 650336; email kirstengable@gmail.com or welshkirsten@ravelry.com.

Valeways walks

Sunday, January 13 at 2pm, coastal path east, starting at Sully Church, South Road, Sully.

Thursday, January 17 at 9.30am, The Dancing Stones (two hours), starting at St Nicholas outside the church.

Canolfan Porthceri

THE Mayor of the Vale will hold a charity coffee morning in the Corporate Suite, Civic Office, Holton Road,

Barry, on January 15 (from 10.30am to 12noon). Proceeds will be in aid of Canolfan Porthceri.

Senior citizens

THE next meeting of Cowbridge Senior Citizens will be held on Thursday, January 17, in Cowbridge Town Hall (Old Hall) at 2pm.

Dr Roger Weddell, a well-known local resident, will speak on Alzheimer's and ways of positive thinking.

Senior Citizens meet once a month, on the third Thursday afternoon.

A warm welcome will be extended to all new members and visitors.

Art session

ON Thursday, January 17, Cowbridge Art Society will hold a practical painting session run by local artist Patricia Mears, exploring pattern, colour and texture using mixed media.

Members are asked to bring along their own materials.

The society meets on Thursday evenings at the Old Hall, Cowbridge from 7pm-9pm. visitors welcome.

For full programme, see www.cowbridgeartsociety.com

Library events

JANUARY booksale at Cowbridge Library - lots of bargains to be had - fiction, non-fiction and children's books.

Storytime is back, every Wednesday during term time, 2pm-2.30pm. Bring along little ones for stories and crafts. Ages 0-5.

For more information, contact the library on 01446 773941.

Lucy joins the choir!

ON February 2, the Bethesda Community Choir at Dinas Powys will be performing with former X-Factor star, Lucie Jones from Pentyrch - a finalist in the 2009 series before being (controversially) voted off.

Since then, she has gone on to play the part of Cosette in Les Misérables in the West End.

Lucie is about to start a world tour in the Queen musical We Will Rock You, and will be bringing some of her friends from the theatre, including Dinas and Bethesda Community Choir 'old boy' Stephen Rolley, who recently played the lead in an

international production of Hair.

This is an unusual time for the choir, as members are used to putting their feet up until later in the year after the annual Christmas concerts at the Parish Hall.

However, the chance for this one-off collaboration - something not even Simon Cowell could bring together - was just too good to pass on.

Limited tickets for this one-off performance are priced at £6 and can be bought from the parish hall and Murch Post Office. They can also be ordered by phone on 029 2051 3401, or online at bethsadamcommunity-choir@yahoo.co.uk.

KW

Accordion band's record donations

THE Mid Glamorgan Accordion Band have celebrated their most successful year, which enabled them to donate over £1,300 to local charities, including the RNLI, Alzheimers Society, Cancer Research, Ty Hafan, Wales Air Ambulance, and Sandville Self Help Centre.

The band, 20 years ago, gave over 40 concerts to local organisations, including churches, community events and retirement homes, and are regulars at the Rest Hotel, and the Glamorgan Holiday Hotel in Porthcawl.

The band of seven players, all retired, but not all accordionists, play a repertoire of show hits, standard melodies, tangos, and singalongs during their two hour shows, and include some ex-professional players in their ranks.

Their success last year means they already have bookings through to the end of December 2013, although they are still actively seeking a singer to rehearse their repertoire for 2013.

GERRY EZARD (Leader and secretary)

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Conservatives query Carwyn's plan to buy Cardiff Airport

CONSERVATIVES in the Vale are continuing to question Labour's decision to consider buying Cardiff Airport.

They are calling for more answers and increased transparency over the Welsh Government's decision after the announcement was made during the Assembly's Christmas recess period.

The Shadow Minister for Transport, Byron Davies AM, said: "Christmas may be over, but one present to every Welsh taxpayer - remains unexplained and uncosted."

"The nationalisation of Cardiff Airport was a surprise to everyone but the Welsh Government, and that shroud of secrecy continues to define the issue."

"While finances must be studied, the airport buyers - essentially everyone in Wales - deserve answers."

He said that Conservatives had concerns over the accessibility of the airport, and that bus services pale in comparison to those at Bristol Airport.

While buses run from Bristol city centre up to every 10 minutes and for 24 hours a day, services from Cardiff are avail-

by PHILIP IRWIN

able every two hours during the day and hourly from Rhose railway station.

Similarly, just one train runs to Rhose from Cardiff city centre every hour. This is in stark contrast to Birmingham where there are seven trains an hour between the airport and city centre, and Manchester - where trains run every 10 minutes.

Mr Davies continued: "In the current financial climate, and at a time when the NHS is facing record-breaking budget cuts, the casual acquisition of an airport appears wasteful at best."

"The tens of millions of pounds being spent on this acquisition could be spent on other projects - such as the A55 or the Newtown bypass - and a guarantee on value for public money is needed."

"The First Minister must also commit to making the airport's accounts fully available as soon as possible."

"Be it health, education or the economy, Labour ministers stumble comically from one disaster to another."

"There is no current reason to believe their ownership of Cardiff

Airport will be anything but another financial calamity."

A Welsh Conservative debate on the issue was due to take place yesterday (Wednesday) in the Assembly.

A Welsh Government spokesperson said: "As the Business Minister told Assembly members, it would be totally inappropriate to release information that is commercial and in confidence, now the Welsh Government has entered into an exclusive 'due diligence' agreement with Cardiff Airport owners, TBL."

The Vale AM, Jane Hutt, said: "The Welsh Government's agreement to progress towards the purchase of Cardiff Airport is great news for the airport, the Vale and the whole of Wales."

"By taking the airport into public ownership, the Welsh Government can integrate it into its wider economic strategy and boost prospects for Welsh citizens, tourists, businesses and the aviation industry - particularly the British Airways Maintenance Centre."

"It is also key to the St Athan and Cardiff Enterprise Zone, backed by the public and private sectors, with the prospect of jobs for local people," she insisted.

Welsh Government is 'leaning towards focused regeneration approach'

THE chair of the Barry Regeneration Area Partnership Board, Coun Lis Burnett, has said reductions in funding for regeneration initiatives in Wales are due to UK Government cuts.

Barry faces a battle in the next few months to prolong its regeneration status beyond early 2014, and Coun Burnett, who attended a meeting arranged recently by Vale MP Alun Cairns on that issue, pointed out the Welsh Government was having to look at a more focused approach, because funding was contracting.

Coun Burnett told The GEM: "I was happy to attend Alun Cairns' recent meeting to discuss the current Welsh Government consultation on regeneration - 'Vibrant and Vital Places'."

"As an area devolved to Wales, I was pleased that a local MP had shown an interest, even though at the meeting some misunderstandings became apparent."

"Those misconceptions unfortunately reappeared in Mr Cairns' article on December 20."

"The current consultation is exploring how Wales should carry out regeneration activities in the future."

"The reduction in funding is a direct result of the Tory-Liberal Democrat UK Government cuts, and so we have to restructure our regeneration initiatives to make them more effective with less money."

"Should we spread our funds ever thinner, so everyone has a slice, or focus it into a smaller number of areas where it can make the greatest difference?"

"The Welsh Government appears to be leaning towards a focused approach at present."

Coun Burnett said that approach could be to the town's advantage, but decision makers in Cardiff had to be persuaded that its case represented value for money.

"We need to make sure the Welsh Government knows what we can do with their funds and just what a difference we can make if they invest in us."

Coun Burnett stressed that the board had had regular meetings with the Minister concerned.

"Huw Lewis, the Minister for regeneration, is no stranger to Barry and has visited twice in recent months - most recently for a full and frank discussion with the Barry Regeneration Board."

"We will continue to have those discussions and continue to champion Barry and the rest of the Vale at every opportunity."

"To retain regeneration area status for Barry, it will take more than 10 people in a room on a wet and windy night..."

"It will take every one of us to play a part in creating the Barry of the future, and to persuade the Welsh Government to invest its scarce resources in us."

You can make your voice heard on the Welsh Government's consultation: <http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/businessandcommunity/vvp/?lang=en>.

The Vale Council's response to the consultation can be found at: www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/our_council/council/minutes_agendas_and_reports/reports/cabinet/2012/12-17/vibrant_and_viable_places.aspx.



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Bridal designers are seasons ahead, so you can tap into the fashion mood for your upcoming nuptials.

Check out the trends and you will find a wedding ensemble you'll be smitten with.

Fabrics to fall for are satin, silk, tulle, taffeta - the bridal options are endless but one fabric - lace - is still hot, even after a dominant year in 2012.

Lace was big, of course, because of the Kate Middleton-effect. After she and

by LISA HAYNES

William married in 2011, the profile of lace was raised to an all time high, but designers are still finding new ways to use the fabric in cutting edge designs.

Susi Rogol, editor of trade magazine Bridal Buyer, said: "Lace is being used in little sculpted shrugs to give a hint of cover-up, through to strapless gowns, and as detachable straps to complete top layers."

Meanwhile edgier brides are loving laser-cut fabrics to create surface texture and 3D effects, also achieved with swirls of ribbons or fabric forming an entire skirt of flowers or petals.

If you're looking ahead to a wedding later this year, look back in time for inspiration.

The year 2013 will be a vintage one, according to Susi Rogol.

Susi said: "Vintage is the direction that every influential designer is taking, harking back to the Thirties and Fifties in particular."

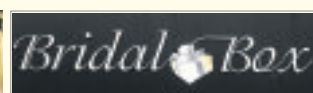
(CONTINUED ON PAGE 19)

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BRIDES & GROOMS



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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18 necklines and ballerina lengths on the other.”
Suzi added: “So think slinky body-clinging dresses in slippery Think Audrey Hepburn for satins with clever fabric manipulation to form shape and accentuate details like nipped-in waists, bell curve on one hand, and boat skirts and crisp silhouettes.



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STUDIO POINT BREAK OPENS IN LLANTWIT!

CELEBRATING 20 years photographing rock stars, heads of state, society weddings and celebrity events, Llantwit photographer Derek Naylor has opened Studio Point Break in the heart of Llantwit Major next to Co Op.

A champagne reception was held before Christmas for friends, clients and fellow photographers to celebrate the opening of the new studio which boasts 50 square metres of gallery and studio space.

Derek explained: "Facilities include enough room to photograph large family groups and view images on the large screen in the viewing lounge - people can also enjoy the gallery and contemporary wedding albums."

"It is essential to give today's modern bride the time they deserve and many options to consider. The Studio is the perfect place to browse

sample albums, canvas prints and take advantage of the experience I offer."

He added: "Brides love the concept of not having any set packages and having complete control over budgets and album choice and seeing real weddings in albums or on display prints."

"The response so far has been fantastic and I am looking forward to holding one day photo workshops in the spring for groups of six covering a range of photography from basic to advanced skills."

"I am keen to hear from local photo clubs who may be able to make use of the Studio."

Derek is well known in the western Vale and has been actively involved in youth initiatives in the town for many years, notably as a volunteer with Major Music, and as a campaigner for the skatepark in Frampton with Major Skate.

You can contact Derek at Studio Point Break on: 01446 796636 / 07979 361520.

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This is why it is often called 'the silent disease'. Of those who suffer a hip fracture, three in 10 will die as a result.

Risk factors include early menopause, family history, steroid based medications,

digestive illnesses, diet and lifestyle factors and low body mass.

Fortunately, there are steps you can take to prevent the development of the disease, such as weight-bearing exercise and eating calcium-rich foods.

A simple ultrasound scan can give a good indication of risk of osteoporosis and future fracture.

For information and appointments, please call Healthcare Screening Ltd on 0800 6126106.

Osteoporosis

Osteoporosis can be prevented but scans for risk of future fracture in post menopausal women are not always readily available on the NHS.

However, you can now have a non-invasive scan for £26.



Wednesday, 16th January
Barry Town Council Offices

For information and appointment please call 0800 612 6106 Healthcare Screening.co.uk

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behind.

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For an appointment or further information, please telephone Maesteg Animal Welfare Society on 01656 721496 or 01656 769855. Please leave a message on our answerphone if we are unavailable.

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Health, Beauty & Fitness



Looking to start the new year with the best intentions? Let The GEM's 3-page guide give you some ideas on how to shape up for 2013!

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BETWEEN 75 - 90 per cent of all your sensory information about the surrounding environment is visual.

The process of converting light into an electrical signal that your brain can interpret is a fairly complex one that involves millions of highly specialised cells found only in the eye. Despite this, many people take their vision for granted and neglect their eyecare.

Considering the prevalence of serious eye disease rockets from only 0.3 per cent in the under-50s to over 25 per cent of the over-70s, getting a regular eye check is really important.

For the over-60s, the main three culprits are glaucoma, cataract and macular degeneration. All of these eye diseases are treatable if caught early enough, but the problem is that they have a gradual onset and tend to creep up on people; by the time vision is noticeably affected, substantial irreversible damage can occur.

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Local Slimming World consultant's new group

LOCAL consultant Helen is getting ready to open her new morning group in Llantwit Major – after eight years as a consultant.

Helen said: "I am so excited to be opening a new group to enable me to help more members achieve their weight loss goal."

"There is no feeling in the world like seeing a member achieve their target, which is chosen by themselves".

After losing seven stone by eating normal, every day food and enjoying eating out weekly, Slimming World really is the plan for everyone, Helen confirmed.

"I love it when new members cannot believe all the food we can count as 'free'. My favourite foods are family foods such as spaghetti bolognese and lasagne."

"There is never a need to go hungry, Slimming World really gave me my life back".

Helen is now opening a group in the Catholic Church, Ham Lane East, Llantwit Major on Tuesdays at 9:30am

If you would like to find out more, please pop along, or call Helen on 01446 750738.

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Catholic Church, Ham Lane East
Helen - 01446 750738
(First group Thurs 3rd reverting to Tues 8th Jan)

Barry RFC
7.30pm
Merthyr Dyfan Road
Teresa - 07889 828401
(First group Wednesday 2nd Jan reverting to Tues 8th Jan)

MONDAY
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4.30 & 6.30pm
The Tadross Hotel, Holton Road
(next to Bassett Park)
Lorraine - 01446 407002

Rhoose
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Celtic Way Community Centre, Celtic Way
Helen - 01446 750738

Penarth
5.30pm & 7.30pm
Elfed Avenue United Church, Elfed Avenue
Nia - 07793 885581

TUESDAY
Barry - 5.30pm
Holy Trinity
Presbyterian Church, Trinity Street
Joanne - 01446 404897

Llantwit Major
5.30pm & 7.30pm
Our Lady & St Iltyd Church (Catholic)
Ham Lane East
Helen - 01446 750738

Sully - 6.30pm
The Old School
South Road
Niki - 01446 740394

WEDNESDAY
Barry
4.45 & 6.45pm
St. Francis Millennium Centre, Park Road, Porth-y-Castell
Annmarie - 01446 736534

Barry - 6.00pm
Cadoxton
Methodist Church
Church Road
Joanne - 01446 404897

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9.30am & 11.45am
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Tracy - 07894 275853

Penarth
5.30pm & 7.30pm
All Saints Church Hall
Victoria Square
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Cowbridge - 9.30am
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Rob - 07708 941279

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Sarah - 07525852288

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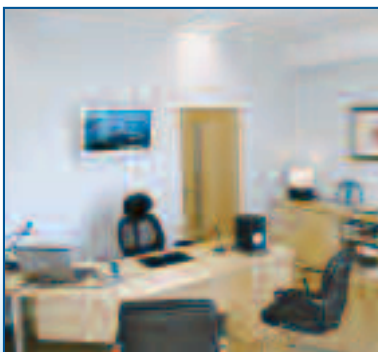
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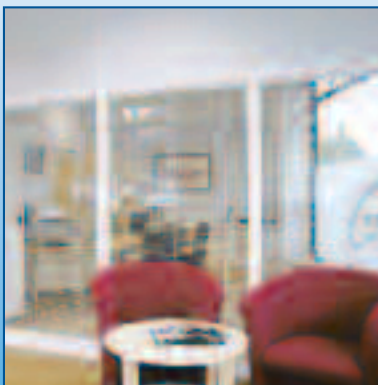
Being completely independent of manufacturers means that customers come first and they will work with you to find the best solution to your hearing problems by choosing from the world's leading digital hearing aids.

Scott and Susan are both registered under the Health Professionals Council and are Fellowship Members of the British Society of Hearing Aid Audiologists so you know you are in safe hands.



While friendly and welcoming, Scott Wroe Hearing Centre is equipped to the highest standards in the industry for a comprehensive diagnosis of your hearing needs.

You can also rest assured with a 30-day free trial so you can test your new aid in real life situations and take your time finding the make and model that suits your lifestyle.



They will also go the extra mile with home visits for customers having difficulty getting to their Penarth practice. There is a full aftercare service with your new hearing aid with check-ups to ensure that your hearing aid is performing correctly, Scott's team will make any adjustments or repairs and check that you're fully up to speed on operating and maintaining your new device at home.

Worrying about your hearing can be a distressing experience which is why Scott Wroe Hearing Centre makes sure the process of doing something about hearing loss is as comfortable and stress-free as possible and they will take the time to personally solve your problem.

"The aids have given me a new lease of life. I can now hear people on the phone and also background noises. My children, friends and relatives cannot get over the change in me. I wish I'd done it years ago."

– Mr Bartley Phillips

"I was put in contact with Scott Wroe Hearing and my life was transformed. The service has been excellent as has been the aids provided. Nothing has been too much trouble for Scott, Sue and Laura and any slight problem is quickly sorted out."

– Dr. Alan Dudley (Retired GP) Penarth

"Having lost 70% of my hearing, I was very glad but unsure when I was introduced by a friend to Scott Wroe. Now some years and three sets of updated hearing aids later I can't thank Scott enough for his excellent, kind and caring service. Without his professional help and advice my world would be a silent one, instead I can now hear more than I ever expected and for that I am most grateful."

– Mrs S Smith

"Hearing loss can be a very daunting experience. Fortunately I was lucky enough to be recommended to Scott Wroe Hearing Centre. With the highly skilled and sympathetic expertise of Scott Wroe I have come to terms with increasing deafness and learnt to combat the condition with expert modern technology. I am extremely grateful for all the help and up to date information I have received from this excellent firm."

– Mrs J Thorpe

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Pilates' course for beginners

A NEW beginners Pilates course starts at 7.15pm on Friday, January 18, at St Nicholas Hall, Barry.

Classes are led by qualified Pilates teacher Sharon Sylvester and are small and friendly, with a maximum of 12 places.

Pilates is a gentle form of exercise for the whole body, combining strength with flexibility, suppleness and better posture.

Sharon is a registered osteopath, working in Barry with people with all sorts of musculo skeletal pain, from minor sports injuries and bad backs to arthritic aches and pains.

New for 2013 is the Back Care Course, using clinical Pilates to help with back, neck, shoulder and hip problems.

To join for more information, contact Sharon on 07830 385606 or see www.barrypilates.co.uk

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Pilates Classes

Monday 9.15am, Friday 6pm
At St Nicholas Hall, Barry

New Beginners Course

Starts 18 Jan, Friday 7.15pm

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THE trouble with New Year's Resolutions is that they have to last us a year – so we make them big...

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Let us make just a New Month's resolution – or, even better, a New Week's resolution, one that can easily be achieved.

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They are now taught all over Wales by Debbie and her colleagues in weekly classes and

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Kick stress to the kerb and join hundreds of others who are reaping the benefits of these award-winning classes...

For information on True Relax, Mini Relax for children, or Teen Relax for teens, contact Debbie on 07542286349, debbie@truere-relax.co.uk or see www.truere-relax.co.uk

'Clean up your dog's mess'

LIKE Mr Evans of the Barry First Group, I have had enough of irresponsible dog owners who leave their dog excrement on public footpaths.

'HAZARDS FROM DOGS, TOO!'

IN response to GEM letter writers Mr Stone and Mr Powell – firstly, I would like to say how sorry I am that their dogs came across fish hooks and lines.

As a pet lover and fisherman myself, I can honestly say that even an irresponsible fisherman would not leave these lines and bottom ends behind on purpose as they cost around £3-£5 to make.

The irresponsible fishermen are the ones who leave their rubbish behind. Around 70 per cent of the fishermen who fish around this area belong to fishing clubs – for example, Sea View Lads Angling Club, Dow Coming and the Lead Heads.

I'd like to add that these clubs have a very serious policy to ensure that we remove all our rubbish, which as fishermen, we take very seriously.

This practice is totally unacceptable and must come to a stop. I live on Rhoose Point and am sick of dodging dogs' mess when I am out and about with my baby in his buggy – both on the beautiful coastal foot-

However, there are a select few that let us down. I feel this is the case with some dog owners.

The majority of people clean up after their dogs, but just as a few let the team down for fishermen, it's the same with dog owners. The irresponsible dog owners are the types that don't pick up their dog mess! Some of them bung the bags of mess on to tree branches, on to benches and even on to café tables after they have had their coffees!

As fishermen sitting on your tackle boxes watching your rod or bringing your line in, you turn around and see a dog doing its business on your rucksack, clothing or pinching your bait.

When you tell the dog off, you get abuse from the owner.

I am not trying to have a go at the dog walkers/owners – I'm just trying to put the fisherman's point across.

John Jones (SLAC) Barry

paths and within Rhoose village itself.

I have lost count of the amount of times I have had to disinfect the buggy's wheels and clean my shoes after inadvertently stepping in this foul waste.

If people are not prepared to pick up their dog's mess, they shouldn't be allowed to keep a dog as a pet. It's not one of the more pleasant aspects of pet keeping, but the absolute responsibility of the dog owner/walker to clean up after their animal.

Please don't think we walkers don't notice when you allow your dogs to defecate in the grass verges and think no-one has seen it and, therefore, you do not need to pick it up and

walk away.

You do; you are being incredibly selfish by not picking this up, dogs' mess harbours all sorts of horrible diseases and bacteria, such as tapeworms; salmonellosis; cryptosporidiosis; campylobacteriosis – all of which could prove fatal to young children, who could potentially trip and fall in the mess you leave behind you.

Perhaps the reintroduction of a dog licence would help with the penalty of having your beloved dog being taken from you and rehomed if you persist in failing to clean up after it – as you are clearly incapable of looking after it properly. **Mrs Biddle, Rhoose.**

DOGS' MESS: 'fine the owners'

ISPEND money and not inconsiderable effort maintaining my Cowbridge lawn and often passers-by remark on its good condition.

Last year, I wrote to The GEM complaining about the number of occasions that I had to clear up dog poo before I could mow the grass.

Dog deposits have now started appearing. Some cretinous dog owner has allowed his/her dog to foul my lawn again. The dog must have been off the lead because the large deposit is about eight yards from the pavement.

I cannot believe this happened during daylight hours, because of the number of people using Town Mill Road and the fact that the area is

overlooked by Southways staff and residents.

Most dog owners walking along Town Mill Road have their dogs on a lead and so the few who allow their dogs to walk without a lead are the exception.

As far as I am concerned, the offending dog owner is nothing more than a social outcast.

I know that dog owners in Barry and Penarth have been penalised when their dogs have fouled public places. Perhaps Cowbridge needs the agency employed by the Vale Council to have a presence here to fine offenders.

It would also deter offenders if their names and addresses could be printed in the local press so that neighbours could identify offenders. **LD Thomas, Cowbridge**

GEM READERS' LETTERS EXTRA

'The BBC has lost its way' – says reader

IWAS vaguely hopeful, when we were told that a complete review of the management of the BBC was to take place, that the deplorable 'dumbing down' policies of the BBC, of the last 30 years, from its original high standards, widely respected across the world, might possibly be reversed.

But my hopes have been dashed: the BBC continues to operate in imitation of commercial TV, with the world news distorted by celebrities, the sneering Paxman, or the clownish Andrew Neil, each on a £1 million pa salary.

If I want to hear an unbiased

and truthful account of what is happening in the world, which once the BBC uniquely provided, I must now turn to Al Jazeera.

I am very surprised to have to acknowledge such high standards, from a source where I was earlier prejudiced.

But the cancer at the heart of the BBC was most obviously displayed, when Lord Patten, chairman of the Trust, hotly rejected and dismissed the criticism of a House of Commons committee, that Mr Entwistle had been vastly overpaid when he resigned, as being unjustified – because he pointed out that Entwistle's contract declared he must get two years' salary, if he was sacked. It was cheaper if Entwistle resigned.

What a laughable defence to

offer, as evidence of Patten's competence. Who in their right mind believes that it is efficient management to draw up such a contract, where, if I am shown to be so bad at my job that you are forced to get rid of me, you must pay me a sum equal to the rewards for two years' hard, successful work?

The contract itself condemns Patten's view of efficiency: the fact that he seeks to use it as a proof of his wise stewardship, is evidence of his lack of understanding.

But the thinking behind such a ludicrous document, also suggests a deeper malaise at the top of the BBC.

Neville Westerman, Brynna.

Campaign reunion visit to Egypt

ASUEZ Canal Zone – Cairo – campaign reunion visit will take place on May 16-24.

I organise return visits back to the Egyptian Canal Zone, where I also served in the 1950s, along with thousands of other personnel.

I know that many service people who live in your circulation area were stationed there during the troubled times of the 1950s.

Many of our service personnel died and are buried in the cemeteries that we visit; Ismailia, Fayid, Moascar, Tel-el-kebir.

I will take photos of any friends or loved one's graves, if any of your readers would like me to (complimentary).

Also, if any of your readers would like to join us on our next group, I still have a few places left.

We will be visiting Cairo and staying at a hotel in Ismailia overlooking Lake Timsa and visiting other places in the Canal Zone.

I am limited to 30 places on this reunion visit, due to the fact it is still a military restricted area – spouses are welcome.

Alf Avison, Middle East Land Forces Association, PO Box 99, Spalding, Lincolnshire. PE11 9NS Telephone 07814 832441; email alfavison@talktalk.net.

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Model shown is New Auris Icon 1.33 VVT-i 5 door manual £17,345. Offer excludes metallic paint extra £495. Prices correct at time of going to press. *0% APR Representative only available on new retail orders of New Auris Icon (excluding Hybrid) when ordered between 1 December 2012 and 31 March 2013 and registered and financed through Toyota Financial Services, Great Bingham, Bury Heath, Epsom, Surrey KT18 5UZ before 30 June 2013 on a 3 year Access Toyota (ACP) plan with 0-25% deposit. *Payment shown is based on a 3 year Access Toyota contract with £4199.07 deposit and Guaranteed Future Value/Optional Final Payment. Interest may be required. Finance subject to status to over 18s. Other finance offers are available but cannot be used in conjunction with this offer. Excess miles over 30,000 charged at 8p per mile. Toyota Centres are independent of Toyota Financial Services. Terms and conditions apply. Affordable finance through Access Toyota. 5 year/100,000 mile manufacturer warranty subject to terms and conditions.

New Auris Icon 1.33 VVT-i 5 door manual. Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km): Urban 42.8 (5.6), Extra Urban 60.1 (4.7), Combined 52.3 (5.4). CO₂ Emissions 125g/km.



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Models shown are Yaris Edition 1.0 VVT-i 5 door manual £11,795. Metallic paint £495 extra. AYGO Fire 1.0 VVT-i 3 door manual £5,835. Metallic paint £495 extra. Prices correct at time of going to press. *0% APR Representative only available on new retail sales of Yaris (excluding T2 and hybrid), AYGO (excluding Entry model), Auris (MY13 excluding Active and Hybrid Synergy drive), Verso (excluding MY13 Active) and Rav4 when ordered between 1 December 2012 and 31 March 2013 and registered and financed through Toyota Financial Services, Great Bingham, Bury Heath, Epsom, Surrey, KT18 5UZ before 30 June 2013 on a 3 year Access Toyota (ACP) plan with 0% deposit and 0-25% deposit on MY13 Auris and MY13 Verso. Interest may be required. Finance subject to status to over 18s. Excess mileage over 30,000 charged at 8p per mile on Auris, AYGO and Rav4, 8p per mile on Verso and Rav4. Toyota Centres are independent of Toyota Financial Services. Terms and Conditions apply. 5 year/100,000 mile manufacturer warranty subject to terms and conditions.

Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km): Yaris Edition 1.0 VVT-i 5 door manual: Urban 48.7 (5.8), Extra Urban 65.7 (4.3), Combined 58.9 (4.8). CO₂ Emissions 111g/km; AYGO Fire 1.0 VVT-i 3 door manual: Urban 55.4 (5.1), Extra Urban 74.3 (3.8), Combined 65.7 (4.3). CO₂ Emissions 99g/km.

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The result was calculated from the Customer Satisfaction returns of nearly 16,000 households across Britain and Ireland - every single customer of every member company for the whole year, with the award being presented by snooker legend Steve Davis at Network VEKA's AGM in Cheshire.

Six times World Champion, Steve, who is also the Brand Ambassador for Network VEKA, told the MPN team, "All Network VEKA members maintain incredibly high standards, so you really are competing against the best of the best. Congratulations."

MPN's Paul Webster collected the trophy and said of the win: "Our reputation is very important to us and we are extremely committed to customer service. It's great to be recognised for all our hard work."

In our photograph, Steve Davis presents the trophy to Paul and Melanie Webster and Paul and Hannah Glastonbury.



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Air Force cadets show off their marksmanship



THE SHARP SHOOTERS.

CADETS from 2300 (St Athan) Air Training Corps recently displayed their marksmanship at MoD St Athan.

They were joined by cadets from Pontyclun, Treorchy, Aberdare, Pontypridd and Aberdare.

The cadets fired two rifles, as well as tackling weapon handling tests and marksmanship award badges.

The 2300 Squadron, representatives were Corporals Hannah and James Gaskin, and Cadets Tom Davey, Ben Chester, Ellie Bown, Owen Kendrick and Cameron Sleeth.

There was also a chance for the cadets to take part in the Battle of Britain Small Bore Competition Shoot. Each squadron entered a team of four cadets who shot a .22 calibre target rifle.

Congratulations to St Athan, who in the first round of the shoot came eighth out the entire Air Training Corps! Ben Chester and Hannah Gaskin

scored 87/100, James Gaskin scored 81/100 and Tom Davey scored 76/100, for a total of 331/400!

This is an outstanding achievement, and the team look forward to competing in the second round after Christmas.

2300 St Athan wishes everyone a Happy New Year!

EXPAND YOUR HORIZONS

2300 St Athan Squadron is currently recruiting, and if you fancy doing flying, gliding, shooting, sports, adventure training, DofE and much more, contact the squadron on 01446 798684. Parade nights are Mondays and Wednesdays, 7pm-9.30pm; all between 13-18 are welcome!

We have all of the facilities on the MoD base, including a flight simulator, accommodation, rifle range, a run-way and gyms.

Contact Flight Lieutenant David Bentley-Miller at oc.2300@aircadets.org for more information.

Lions Clubs look forward to bigger and better 2013...

COMMENTING on a New Year report by Wing-Kun Tam, chairperson, of Lions Clubs International Foundation, setting out charity work undertaken in 2012 by the foundation, local District Governor 105W Lion Harry Smith said:

"It is always interesting to learn what we as Lions throughout the world can achieve when we work together for the benefit of others.

"I believe that we can be justifiably proud of the results.

"However, similar success is being achieved in smaller ways by individual Lions' clubs throughout the British Isles, on almost a weekly basis.

"My hope for the remainder of the year, is to attract new membership into Lions - to enable us to achieve even greater things.

"On behalf of all of the clubs in District 105W, I thank the communities that they serve for the sterling support they give to our work."

Computer club learns that making predictions is a perilous business!

YOU may have seen in the press a few predictions about what the future will bring: Some forecasters are bright and have good ideas, but as

far as computing is concerned, there have been some spectacularly wide of the mark.

In 1943, T J Watson, president of IBM was reputed to have said: "I think there is a world

market for maybe five computers."

At that time, the building of Colossus at Bletchley Park was highly secret and for years, computers were so costly as to need a national budget, and so large that people walked round inside them.

In 1949, Jon von Neumann thought that the limit of what computers could do had been reached. Although he had developed the basic design of computers that is still in use today, he could not envision the possibilities.

He had sense enough to note the possibility that he could look a bit silly in a few years time.

In 1949, computers could weigh over 20 tons. Popular Mechanics foresaw that this could be reduced, and suggest-

ed that in future they would weigh well under two tons. They were right, but way out because some now fit into a small briefcase.

In 1962, Dennis Gabor, who won the Nobel Prize for the invention of the hologram, recognised that the transmission of documents by telephone was possible. However, he also thought that the process would be so expensive that it would never be a practical proposition.

As late as 1977, the founder of the Digital Equipment Corporation (DEC) publicly thought: "There is no reason for any individual to have a computer in his home."

(What he thought about a woman owning one is not recorded.)

When personal com-

puters became available, no-one realised what they would be called on to do. When Bill Gates of Microsoft released his Disk Operating System (DOS), he thought that "should be enough for anyone." Modest computers these days use about 10,000 times that amount.

It might surprise you to learn that the most accurate prediction was one that wasn't made at all: The transistor arrived to displace valves commercially in 1956 and was incorporated into computer chips.

In 1965, Gordon Moore (founder of Intel) noticed that the number of transistors built into an integrated circuit on the chip had doubled about every two years.

He merely mentioned the trend in a talk he gave. When it continued to hold true it became known as Moore's Law.

It has been predicted to reach its limit several times, but each time a new development has enabled it to hold true for over 50 years.

It is currently expected to hit the buffers around 2020, but seven years from now, who knows? It might continue to hold true. IBM tech. people speculate that a supercomputer will eventually be reduced to the size of a sugar cube.

Our next meeting is on January 22 at All Saints Lesser Hall, Victoria Square, (7.30pm), topic to be decided. See penarthcomputerclub.co.uk.

Howard Desmond

New Way Solar Energy



Fuel costs rise again - they will only ever go up!

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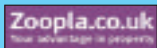
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Spacious plot, ideal for further extending (subject to usual planning consent). Three bedrooms. Hobby area in attic. Living room, ground floor bathroom. Semi detached. Driveway/garage. No chain. Enclosed level garden.

£99,950



PENDINE CLOSE, BARRY
Mid terraced, living room, dining room, kitchen overlooking front. Enclosed rear garden. Street parking. upvc DG and gas CH via combi. No chain.

£49,950



WYNDHAM STREET, BARRY
Spacious living throughout. Mid terraced traditional. Three bedrooms. Three reception rooms. Enclosed courtyard - lane access. upvc DG. Gas CH via combi. Situated amidst shops, schools. Ideal family home.

£126,000



GIBBONSDOWN CLOSE, BARRY
Three bedrooms, corner semi detached, corner position, living room, dining room, fitted kitchen, garage/parking, cul de sac position.

£129,950



OXFORD STREET, BARRY
Mid terraced, traditional dwelling. Two reception rooms, original block flooring. Three bedrooms, rear garden backing onto Porthceni. upvc DG, gas CH via combi. No chain.

£169,950



BASSETT STREET, BARRY
End of terraced. Three bedrooms. 21ft living room, dining room. First floor bathroom. Enclosed patio garden. upvc DG, Gas CH via combi.

£104,950



SEA LAWNS, BARRY
Far reaching sea views. Well presented third floor apartment. Living room, two bedrooms, kitchen, shower room, garage/parking. Viewing recommended.

£124,950



NORDALE RISE, BARRY
Two bedrooms. Modern mid link. Living room, 2012 fitted kitchen/diner. upvc DG, gasCH. Larger than average rear garden. Designated parking.

£94,950



CHANNEL CLOSE, NR BARRY
Modern detached. Living room, dining room, sitting room, fitted kitchen, shower room, wc. Three bedrooms, family bathroom. Shower room, wc. Garage, enclosed garden.

£170,000



GLENBROOK DRIVE, BARRY
Modern mid linked. Built in 1980's. Well presented. Through living, fitted kitchen, conservatory, driveway and additional designated parking to rear.

£109,950



ARLINGTON ROAD, SULLY
Two bedrooms. Modern bungalow. Replacement bathroom, replacement kitchen. Semi detached. South facing rear garden. Detached garage/driveway. Cul de sac position.

£174,950



DOCK VIEW ROAD, BARRY
Mid terraced traditional. Living room, second reception used as bedroom - ensuite. Dining room, kitchen, three bedrooms, shower room. upvc DG, gas CH via replaced combi.

£117,950



GWENNOL Y MOR, BARRY
Modern mid terraced, well presented. Living room, kitchen/breakfast conservatory. Master with ensuite. Garage in block. Enclosed level rear garden. Viewing highly recommended. No chain.

£142,000



PONTYPRIDD ROAD, BARRY
Traditional semi detached bungalow. Bay fronted. Three bedrooms, reception room, Sun lounge. Level enclosed rear garden. Driveway to front.

£189,950



JENNER ROAD, BARRY
Refurbished throughout/ 1st floor maisonette. Two three bedrooms. Living room, fitted kitchen - breakfast bar. Luxury bathroom - bath and shower cubicle. Gas CH via combi. Enclosed garden/driveway.

£112,950



MIN Y MOR, BARRY
Three bedrooms, bay fronted semi. Sea views from front. Two reception rooms. Conservatory. 2004 re-wired, 2003 re-roofed, 2003 replacement Windows. Sigma 3 fitted wardrobes. Enclosed rear garden. Double garage.

£254,950



HOWARD COURT, BARRY
Two bedrooms, first floor apartment. In need of modernisation. Living room, gas central heating and upvc double glazing.

£84,950



WYND STREET, BARRY
Two bedrooms. Bay fronted. Forecourted front. Immaculate presentation. Through living room, modern fitted kitchen. Enclosed garden - lane access. Ideal first time buy.

£109,500



HARBOUR ROAD, BARRY
End of terraced, bay fronted traditional. Through living room. Dining room, fitted kitchen. Four bedrooms. Family bathroom. Garage. Sea views from garden.

£199,950



ST NICHOLAS ROAD, BARRY
Victorian semi. Ideal family home. West End location. Two reception rooms. Modern fitted kitchen. Three storey. Four bedrooms on 1st floor. Three bedrooms on 2nd floor. Enclosed rear garden. Lane access. Driveway providing parking.

£244,950



SOMERSET ROAD WEST, BARRY
Bay fronted. Sea views from rear. Semi detached dwelling. Well presented. Three bedrooms, living room, dining room, kitchen, utility room, basement room - two rooms. Balcony from dining room. Covered sun terrace/garage.

£219,950



MELROSE STREET, BARRY
Three bedrooms. Semi detached, living room, open plan kitchen/diner. Upstairs bathroom. Enclosed garden. Raised decked sun terrace leading to further level area. Driveway providing parking.

£119,950



CLEDWYN CLOSE, BARRY
Three bedroomed semi detached. Living/dining room. Sitting room (converted garage), wc cloakroom, utility room, cul de sac position. Driveway - No chain.

£162,950



BELL STREET, BARRY
Re-furbished throughout. maintenance free. Through living room, 2012 kitchen. 2012 bathroom suite. Two bedrooms leading to third. No chain. upvc double glazing. Gas central heating via combi.

£119,950



HEOL Y PORTHLADD, WATERFRONT, BARRY
Three bedroomed town house. Well presented. wc/cloak. Kitchen/diner. Enclosed garden. Master en suite. Garage/driveway

£159,950



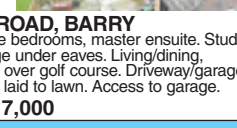
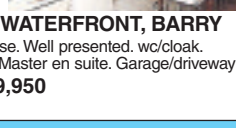
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Extended, semi detached. Three bedrooms, master ensuite. Study and attic room with storage under eaves. Living/dining, conservatory, far reaching views over golf course. Driveway/garage. Decked sun terrace. Further laid to lawn. Access to garage.

£217,000



GLAS Y LLWYN, BARRY
Three bedrooms. Modern detached. wc cloakroom. Bedroom one with ensuite. Living room, dining room, kitchen/breakfast. Private enclosed garden. Driveway/garage.

£193,950



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H4U Reference 1084658
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 • Double-glazing
 • Downstairs wet room and WC
 • Parking
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H4U Reference 1096654
 Suitable for a mature couple with an older family - no pets
 • Two-bedroom upstairs flat
 • Central heating
 • Double-glazing
 • Communal gardens
 Rent £78.80 per week including service charges

BUTRILLS WALK, BARRY

H4U Reference 203086
 Suitable for a family - no pets
 • Three-bedroom upstairs flat
 • Central heating
 • Double-glazing
 • Communal gardens
 Rent £86.02 per week inc. water and service charges

AMROTH COURT, BARRY

H4U Reference 200588
 Suitable for a family
 • Two-bedroom house
 • Central heating
 • Double-glazing
 • Gardens
 Rent £94.79 per week including water charges

CAMROSE COURT, BARRY

H4U Reference 203822
 Suitable for a family
 • Three-bedroom house
 • Central heating
 • Double-glazing
 • Gardens
 Rent £94.94 per week including water charges

DALE COURT, BARRY

H4U Reference 207000
 Suitable for a family
 • Three-bedroom house
 • Central heating
 • Double-glazing
 • Gardens
 Rent £94.65 per week including water charges

DRYDEN TERRACE, BARRY

H4U Reference 207589
 Suitable for a family
 • Two-bedroom house
 • Central heating
 • Double-glazing
 • Gardens
 Rent £91.73 per week including water charges

DUNLIN COURT, BARRY

H4U reference 1086733
 Suitable for a single person or couple
 • One-bedroom flat
 • Ground floor
 • Gas central heating
 • Double-glazing
 • Parking
 Rent £71.54 per week including service charge

DYLAN CRESCENT, BARRY

H4U Reference 208315
 Suit for a single person, couple or small family - no pets
 • Two-bedroom upstairs flat
 • Central heating
 • Double-glazing
 • Communal gardens
 Rent £76.95 per week inc. water and sewerage charges

GWYN JAMES COURT, PENARTH

H4U reference 988824
 Suitable for a single person or couple over 55 - no pets
 • First-floor studio (no lift)
 • Central heating
 • Double-glazing
 • Scheme Co-ordinator
 • Gardens and parking
 Rent £105.45 per inc. water, heating and service charges

HANOVER COURT, BARRY

H4U reference 1072889
 Suitable for a single person over 60 (65 with medical needs)
 • One-bed first floor flat
 • Central heating
 • Double-glazing
 • Scheme Manager and alarm
 Rent £87.21 per week including service charge

MEIRION CLOSE, BARRY

H4U Reference 216049
 Suitable for a single person, couple or small family - no pets
 • Two-bedroom GF flat
 • Central heating
 • Double-glazing
 • Communal gardens
 Rent £77.24 per week inc. water and sewerage charges

ELIS FISHER COURT, BARRY

H4U reference 1024744
 Suitable for a single person or couple over 55 - no pets
 • One-bedroom FF flat (lift)
 • Central heating
 • Double-glazing
 • Scheme Co-ordinator
 • Shared access/parking
 Rent £102.92 per week inc. water and service charges

MURCH ROAD, DINAS POWYS

H4U Reference 251374
 Suitable for a single person or couple over 40
 • Two-bedroom upstairs flat
 • Central heating
 • Double-glazing
 • Communal gardens
 Rent £83.59 per week inc. water and sewerage charges

NARBERTH COURT, BARRY

H4U Reference 217457
 Suitable for a family
 • Three-bedroom house
 • Central heating
 • Double-glazing
 • Gardens
 Rent £94.35 per week including water charges

NORTH WALK, BARRY

H4U Reference 217458
 Suitable for a family - no pets
 • Three-bed upstairs flat
 • Central heating
 • Double-glazing
 • Gardens
 Rent £86.02 per week including water and sewerage charges

OAK COURT, PENARTH

H4U reference 925004
 Suitable for a single person over 60 (65 with medical needs)
 • One-bedroom flat
 • Second-floor (lift)
 • Economy 7 heating
 • Double-glazing
 • Scheme Manager and alarm
 Rent £102.15 per week including service charge

OAK COURT, PENARTH

H4U reference 1011672
 Suitable for a single person over 60 (65 with medical needs)
 • One-bed, second-floor (lift)
 • Adapted bath
 • Economy 7 heating
 • Double-glazing
 • Scheme Manager and alarm
 Rent £102.98 per week including service charge

OAK COURT, PENARTH

H4U reference 108586
 Suitable for a single person over 60 (65 with medical needs)
 • One-bed, second-floor (lift)
 • Adapted shower
 • Economy 7 heating
 • Double-glazing
 • Scheme Manager and alarm
 Rent £102.98 per week including service charge

OGMORE PLACE, BARRY (2)

H4U Reference 218633
 Suitable for a family
 • Two-bedroom houses
 • Central heating
 • Double-glazing
 • Gardens
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PANTYCELYN PLACE, ST ATHAN

H4U Reference 249474
 Suitable for a family
 • Three-bedroom house
 • Central heating
 • Double-glazing
 • Gardens
 Rent £96.59 per week including water charges

PHILIPPA FREETH COURT, BARRY

H4U reference 983012
 Suitable for a single person or couple over 55 - no pets
 • One-bedroom FF flat (steps)
 • Central heating
 • Double-glazing
 • Scheme Co-ordinator
 • Parking and gardens
 Rent £87.06 per week including water and service charges

POWIS VIEW, BARRY

H4U Reference 1098553
 Suitable for a small/mature family - no pets
 • Two-bedroom flat
 • Ground floor (steps)
 • Central heating
 • Double-glazing
 • Communal gardens
 Rent £81.75 per week including service charges

RECTORY ROAD, BARRY READVISED

H4U Reference 1041902
 Suitable for a single person or couple over 40 - no pets
 • One-bedroom flat
 • First floor
 • Central heating
 • Double-glazing
 Rent £75.25 per week including service charges

SHAKESPEARE AVENUE, PENARTH

H4U Reference 244084
 Suitable for a family
 • Three-bedroom house
 • Central heating
 • Double-glazing
 • Gardens
 Rent £101.17 per week including water charges

TY CERRIG, BARRY

H4U reference 1074391
 Suitable for a single person over 55
 • One-bedroom flat
 • First floor
 • Gas central heating
 • Double-glazing
 • Parking
 Rent £80.45 per week including service charge

TY FFYNNON, BARRY

H4U Reference 226721
 Suitable for a single person, couple or small family - no pets
 • Two-bedroom upstairs flat
 • Central heating
 • Double-glazing
 • Communal gardens
 Rent £80.53 per week inc. water and sewerage charges

VACHELL COURT, LLANTWIT MAJOR

H4U Reference 206608
 Suitable for a family
 • Three-bedroom house
 • Central heating
 • Double-glazing
 • Gardens
 Rent £97.31 per week including water charges

You must be a HOMES4U member to apply for any of these homes. When bidding for more than one property you will be asked to state your order of preference. All descriptions and other details are given in good faith and are believed to be correct but any potential tenant should satisfy themselves as to their correctness. Newydd is a charitable housing association.



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We are looking for an enthusiastic person to join our busy sales team. The job involves assisting customers on the phone, in the showroom and on-site surveys at customers' homes to produce estimates. Experience would be beneficial, but training will be given. Must be computer literate and hold full driving licence.

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We require an experienced individual to join our rapidly growing kitchen division. The position will involve dealing with customers in the showroom, conducting site surveys and creating kitchen designs using a CAD package. Previous experience in selling kitchens required, knowledge of CAD based design and a clean driving licence required.

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We are looking for an enthusiastic person to work in our new coffee bar Monday to Friday. The work will involve making and serving teas/coffees together with hot food and light lunches. Knowledge of Food Hygiene and Standards would be helpful but training will be given.

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Birthdays

Happy Birthday PHIL IRWIN on 8th January



We hope you had a great day! From all your friends at The GEM

Happy 50th Birthday WYN GOWER (16.1.13)

With loads of love & kisses
Lucy & Rhys xxx

Your close friends in the
Wyndom Gower
Appreciation Society xxx
and work colleagues at St.
Richard Gwyn High School



Thank You

"THANK YOU" JEAN HURN

Jean would like to thank all family and friends for their good wishes on the occasion of her 80th birthday.

THANK YOU

MONA BLANCHARD
would like to thank all her friends and groups for all the lovely cards and Christmas wishes sent to her.

Articles For Sale

ADVERTISE HERE £12 inc. VAT - box for 2 weeks. To take advantage of this offer simply either send in your description along with a cheque for the appropriate amount made payable to 'The Glamorgan GEM' at The GEM, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or telephone us with your wording by 12 noon Tuesday. All major credit cards accepted. Tel 01446 774484. Adverts must contain a residential land line telephone number. You may not have your advert as items are sold. Sorry no refunds are given.

Black Electric Cooker

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Family Notices

JENKINS

Graham Robert of Llantwit Major

Died suddenly on 18th December 2012, age 73. Partner of Wendy, husband to the late Helen and father to Paula and Laurie-Ann, brother of Elizabeth and the late Bryn and Winston.

Wendy would like to thank all members of family, friends and work colleagues who attended Graham's funeral on 3rd January 2013 at Bridgend Crematorium and for the floral tributes and kind donations to the Multiple Sclerosis Society and British Heart Foundation.

Special thanks to the Reverend Huw and Mr Ian Ketchell. He will be sadly missed by all.

SYMMONDS

Sylvia Agnes

On 7th January 2013 at Holme Tower, Sylvia of Llantwit Major. Dearly loved mother of Dawn, Linda and Jill and a loving and much loved grandmother and great grandmother.

She will be sadly missed by all her family and friends. Resting at W.A. Brown & Son, College Street, Llantwit Major until the Funeral Service on Friday 18th January 2013 in Cychurch Crematorium at 10.00am.

Family flowers only, but donations may be made to Marie Curie Cancer Care c/o the Funeral Director (cheques only).

BAXTER

Allan Geordie

On 25th December, aged 86 years.

Loving Husband of Anne, much loved Dad of Alison & Neil and Father in law of Steve and Deanne. Funeral service to be held on Monday 14th January, 12.00 noon at Cychurch Crematorium.

Family flowers only by request, donations in lieu to Ty Hafan Children's Hospice may be made c/o David Brown, Park Funeral Directors, 7 Tynwydd Road, Barry, Vale of Glamorgan, CF62 8HB.

BURKE

Joan (Steph)

Peacefully on January 5, aged 97 years.

Loving wife to the late William (Billy) Burke, much loved mother to Anthony and Peter, mother-in-law to Shama and Heather, cherished grandmother and great-grandmother.

Will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

Resting at AG Adams & Son Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry until the service in the chapel on Thursday January 17th, 2013 at 1pm, followed by an interment in Barry Cemetery. Flowers may be sent to the Funeral Home.

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'Ban dogs in play areas!' - councillor

A BARRY councillor has called for a scrutiny committee to consider if dogs should be banned from entering all play areas across the Vale, in order to protect children.

Independent Richard Bertin, who represents the Barry Court ward, requested that councillors consider the matter in the economy and environment scrutiny committee. He said it was also being considered by other authorities across Wales, under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005. He also wants the public to be asked if they are in favour of new dog control orders in play areas.

Coun Bertin said: "If approved, this would certainly protect children from harm in play areas and multi-use games areas.

"I have been approached by members of the public about this matter, who are keen to see something done. If approved by both scrutiny and cabinet, this would make a real difference to the community."

The Vale Council has recently employed private enforcement officers from the XFOR Company to deal with environmental issues including dog fouling. It is said that further powers to ban dogs from play areas in the Vale would help the council with dog fouling prevention and make play areas safer for children.

NEWS FROM PENARTH & DISTRICT RAMBLERS

Sampling delights that put Barry on the map

GLAD to get out on an overcast but dry morning, six walkers and dogs Bracken and Bronte joined their leaders Janet and John for a seasonal stroll around four very different Barry beaches.

Reaching Cold Knap or 'pebble beach' the group walked the promenade to Watchtower Bay and descended to cross the Old Harbour to Barry Island.

Because of lack of funding, it wasn't until the railway was built in 1896 that Barry Island became connected to the mainland.

After the first dock basin was opened at the newly-created Barry Dock in 1889, followed by two more docks, Barry was put on the map as it became a very prosperous coal exporting port and the town soon grew.

During the late 1800s, Barry Island attracted thousands of visitors, many of which arrived by train with the alternative being to use the Yellow Funnel Fleet of paddle steamers based in Cardiff, which later was taken over by the White Funnel Fleet of paddle steamers, owned by P & A Campbell from Bristol.

Then, by the early 1900s, came donkey rides, Punch and Judy shows and the addition of a promenade at Whitmore Bay - which had turnstiles charging one penny (later reduced, resulting in the promenade being nicknamed the halfpenny prom!).

Crossing the lovely

sandy bay the town is known for, the group joined the Clements Colley walk around Nell's Point, on which Butlins Holiday Camp once stood, to their last beach at Jackson's Bay before taking the cliff path uphill to the residential part of Barry Island.

From Clive Road, they were able to view the changing face of Barry Docks, now the expanding Waterfront and in the centre of the new developments, the old Dock Office stands proud.

This impressive head office of the Barry Dock Railway Company, with its Portland stone dressings and domed clock tower, opened in 1900.

Outside stands the statue of David Davies of Llandinam, the coal magnate who helped to found the successful railway and dock company which was built by the civil engineer, Thomas Andrew Walker.

Crossing part of the Waterfront, the group entered Broad Street, so named because it was the widest street in Barry at the time, and made their way down to the Parade Gardens and back to Bron y Mor after a delightful morning walk.

Wear suitable clothing, preferably boots and carry waterproofs, food and drinks. Some degree of fitness is required and if you are in any doubt, then please contact the walk leader for advice.

To follow the group please log onto www.penarthramblers.wordpress.com. Rucksack badges, programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2025 5102.

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WHO WANTS TO BUILD WHAT, AND WHERE?

Secretary of State for Defence – **Beggars Pound, MoD St Athan** – New security fence with Crash Gate installed to provide emergency access onto the airfield beyond. New fence will be 1.9m high (including three strands of barbed wire at the top) and will be buried 150mm below ground.

Mrs Joyce Badman – **31 Robinswood Crescent, Penarth** – Proposed demolition of existing detached garage, erection of single storey rear extension to the existing dwelling. Insertion of new gable roof and full height glazing to front elevation. Minor internal alterations, and minor external works.

Mr Matthew Thomas – **2 Hinchliff Avenue, Barry** – Single storey extension to rear of existing domestic dwelling.

Mr Ian Tadicco – **Unit 3a, Ty Verlon Close, Verlon Business Park, Barry** – Change from usage B1 to B2 for light vehicle MoT station.

Mr Andrew Davies – **Dunromin, Eweny Road, St Brides Major** – Single storey side and rear extension incorporating footprint of existing garage and store room.

Mr and Mrs Nourish – **13 Westbourne Road, Penarth** – Fell bay tree.

Mr David Adams – **26 Clive Place, Penarth** – Refurbishment/part demolition of the existing coach house for use as owner's music studio; and extension to the rear of main house.

Cambourne Energy Investments – **Land at the Garn, St Hilary** – Construction of a solar park to include the installation of solar panels to generate up to 7.5mw of electricity with transformer housings.

Security fencing and cameras, landscaping and other associated works.

Mr and Mrs Stevens – **The Old Rectory, Porthkerry, Barry** – Construction of new outdoor swimming pool between new kitchen extension and existing Coach House, including retaining works, enclosures and terracing (amendment to permission ref 2010/00246/FUL).

Mrs Lisa Hamlett – **6 Lake Hill Drive, Cowbridge** – Proposed two storey extension to front elevation and internal remodelling of the dwelling.

Ms S Hook – **Rawley Court, Turkey Street, Llantwit Major** – Proposed conversion of outbuildings/barn to form annex to existing dwelling.

Mr M Boland – **Normandy, Bridgeman Road, Penarth** – Demolition of building.

Mr Griff Morgan – **68 Eastgate, Cowbridge** – Small, single storey rear extension to Arboreal Restaurant.

Mrs Sonia Ford – **22 Greenway Close, Llandough** – Demolish existing bungalow and rebuild dwelling.

Hebron Hall Christian Centre – **Bethel House, Hebron Hall Christian Centre, Cross Common Road, Dinas Powys** – Amendment to roof profile to approved kitchen scheme ref 2012/00294/FUL.

Mr Ronny Cowley – **1 Old Port Road, Wenvoe** – Rear and side extension, with detached garage.

Ty Hafan – **Hayes Road, Sully** – Variation of Condition 10 (bus shelter) and Condition 17 (BREEAM final certificate) of planning consent 2010/01336/FUL to allow an extended time period.

Mr and Mrs Alasdair McIntyre – **87 Westbourne Road, Penarth** – Amendment

to application 2012/00882/FUL recently approved to include first floor extension.

Mrs Bessie Tarlton – **9 Cattwg Close, Llantwit Major** – Ground floor single storey extension to front of property to provide toilet and porchway.

Mr and Mrs N Money – **30 Celtic Way, Rhose** – Single storey rear and side extension and provision of new porch.

Miss Symmonds – **15 Llys Tello, Llantwit Major** – Conservatory to the rear elevation.

Mr David Wheeler – **Downside, Sully Road, Penarth** – Extension, consisting of five pens and access to existing cattery.

Mr Michael Moore – **3a, Atlantic Trading Estate, Barry** – Three commercial units with self contained parking.

One commercial unit to be used as office and vehicle maintenance centre for A2B Taxis, mezzanine floor option to A2B taxi unit.

Mr John Eliot – **74 Plymouth Road, Penarth** – Revision to planning consent 2012/00743/FUL to reposition rear outside wall of permitted single storey side and rear extension from 3.6 metres to 4.3 metres away from existing house.

Nick Renwick – **Unit 6, Old Hall, Cowbridge** – Erect a sign board to the outside of the building.

Mr and Mrs Drew and Louise Thomas – **8 Cwm Barry Way, Barry** – Single storey rear extension.

Fat Face Ltd – **Unit 1, Waitrose, Birds Lane, Cowbridge** – 1 No fascia sign, built up fascia panel and new HVAC.

Herbert R Thomas – **Sploft Farm, Cowbridge Road, Aberthryn** – Safe and dry hay storage, extension of track to move hay.

Mr Andrew Healey – **Dow Corning Ltd, Cardiff Road, Barry** – Re-cladding of 15 no existing process columns with new Aluzinc finish or visual equivalent.

Mr John Harman – **Mill Cottage, Greenfield Way, Llanbleithen** – Prune magnolia and remove elms.

Mr and Mrs Paul Owen – **36 Conway Drive, Barry** – Single storey extension to existing house.

Vale Podiatry – **Ace Feet in Motion, Newport House, Commercial Street, Llantwit Major** – Change of use from A1 to Podiatry Clinic falling within use Class D1.

Mr Southwell – **3 The Mount, Dinas Powys** – Reduce two sycamore trees in rear garden.

William Hill Organisation Plc – **36 Vere Street, Barry** – New shop front window and signage on ground floor.

Ms Claire Ryan – **Rock Cottage, St Brides Major** – Construction of a parking bay for one vehicle in the garden of Rock Cottage adjacent to Penylan Road.

Keith Payne – **7 Boverton Brook, Boverton, Llantwit Major** – First floor extension above existing garage including single storey rear extension.

Mr Stuart Jones – **2 Sully Place, Penarth** – Take down existing conservatory, single storey extension and outbuilding and replace with new single storey extension complete. New pitched roof with Velux roof lights.

Helium Miracle 113 Limited – **Land at ISV and The Cardiff Arena Ice Rink, International Drive, Grangetown, Cardiff** – Hybrid application comprising full detail in respect of the demolition of existing temporary ice rink and erection of new Ice Arena and associated temporary parking provision, access and servicing and outline with consideration of access only in respect of indoor natural snow ski slope, A1 retail, A3 food and drink, B1 off, C3 residential, C1 hotel, D1 non-residential institution, and D2 assembly and leisure uses, access, parking (including a multi-storey car park), servicing and landscaping.

Mrs N Richards – **Tudor Lodge, Bonvilston** – Resurfacing of external ground with sandstone stable cobbles to create new hardstanding area and access.

Mrs N Richards – **Tudor Lodge, Bonvilston** – Upgrade of surface finish to an existing vehicle access which gives entrance to the rear field of Tudor Lodge.

SIS (Ladbroke) – **5 The Precinct, Llantwit Major** – Installation of 1.2m light grey satellite dish on 2.5 galvanised steel pole.

Mr Sion McNally – **Maes Isaf, Heol Las, Wick** – Proposed erection of single storey garage.

Mr Rosslyn David Lewis – **Tynewydd Farm, Flemingston** – The formal change of use of 12 existing stables within the farmyard at Tynewydd Farm, from agricultural to equine use as a livery yard. The sta-

bles and livery yard have been in situ and the business in existence since July 1, 2000.

Mr and Mrs Keith Davies – **Home Farm, Hensol** – Single storey front extension to existing porch and single storey rear extension to kitchen. In addition the works include the addition of two windows at first floor bedroom one and access from bedroom onto a new balcony.

Mr Patrick Carroll – **Court Road Depot, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Barry Road, Barry** – Demolition of the superstructure of the two-storey jeans factory building to ground floor (slab) level.

Mr and Mrs S Oxenham – **Fern Hill, Michaelston Le Pit** – Conversion of existing garage and utility area into kitchen with extension to form dining area, with enlarged balcony over. Conservatory (as previously approved) with balcony over and access doors from bedroom. Internal alterations to include a lift installation/fireplace and chimney. External parking area extended and garage walls relocated.

Mrs Josephine Cottrell – **Highlands, Pound Lane, Wenvoe** – Single storey porch extension.

Mrs Gidget Sullivan – **18 Bittern Way, Penarth** – Minor alterations to approved plan reference 2012/00313/FUL.

Mr Marsh – **23 Cambourne Close, Barry** – Extend front porch.

Mr Brian Edwards – **The Bailey, West Street, Llantwit Major** – Removal of four ash trees to side of property.

Mrs Judith Rees – **16 Voss Park Drive, Llantwit Major** – Single storey extension to the rear.

William Hill Organisation Plc – **36 Vere Street, Barry** – New shop front window and signage on ground floor.

Miss Carla Mahoney – **1 Crescent Close, Cowbridge** – Proposed new decking area to the rear of the property.

Portway (Penarth) Management Company – **Portway Marina, Penarth** – Upgrading existing lighting and installing low level landscaping lighting.

Mr Simon Johns – **Parc Cottage, Park Road, Dinas Powys** – Prune sycamore tree back to previous cuts.

National Trust – **Dyffryn Gardens, St Nicholas** – Add a security shutter and window bars to the inside of the store, install a vent for an existing gas boiler.

Mr and Mrs Paul Smith – **Swanbridge House, St Marys Well Bay Road, Swanbridge, Penarth** – To refurbish external and internal finishes, new replacement roof covering selected existing internal door openings to be raised in height.

Dr Alastair Reeves – **51 Plas Taliesin, Penarth** – New entrance porch, window alterations and flue for solid fuel stove.

Mr Simon Hunt – **Land at Heol y Fro and Heol Pentre'r Cwrt, Llantwit Major** – Erection of two four-bed dwellings with double garage on part of the site at Heol y Fro and Heol Pentre'r Cwrt,

Llantwit Major and with on site parking to each.

Mr Darren Talbot – **Whitmore Bay Lighthouse Station, Paget Road, Barry** – Proposed meeting room extension on existing roof terrace.

Mr Justin Davies – **1 Vale View Close, Llandough** – Proposed ground floor extension to front elevation.

Mrs Linda Dutton – **Elm Lodge, 2 Woodside Hamlet, Ham Manor Park, Llantwit Major** – Retention of decked area to front of property.

Ms J Downes – **30 Stallcourt Avenue, Llantwit Major** – Single storey extension.

Mr M Righton – **14 Trem y Don, Barry** – Demolish garage and extend at rear and side of the house (single storey) to re-locate kitchen and to provide an entrance hall and garage/store.

Mr Mat Feakins – **Woden Park, land off Cwrt yr Ala Road, Michaelston Le Pit** – Installation of 5MWp solar PV park on the site of derelict land associated with the former Ely Brickworks.

The Esplanade Property Co Ltd – **Unit 7 Esplanade Buildings, Barry Island** – Refurbishment of existing unit to include new flat roof to rear addition.

Mr Mark Canning – **West Cefyl, Broughton Road, Wick** – The removal of condition 2, whereby consent was given for construction one agricultural house at Little West Farm, Wick 53/75/0953.

Mrs Gill Aguilar – **Plymouth House West, Dilmlands Road, Llantwit Major** – Remove a hawthorn in front garden.

Mrs Marie Farmer – **4 Mount Pleasant, Barry** – Amend the eastern elevation of the West Coach House and open up a blocked off window in the southern elevation.

Mrs Rosamund Ellis-Evans – **13 Elm Grove Road, Dinas Powys** – To alter and extend the single storey extension to the rear of the existing property and provide a dropped kerb to the front of the property to allow for an off street car parking space and proposed gates.

Mr Brian Quinn – **Garnllwyd, Llanfarcfan** – Proposed new tourist accommodation to replace an existing summer house and store room.

Mr Kidd – **2 Robin Hill, Dinas Powys** – reduce oak tree by 20 per cent.

Mr Stephen Parry – **Ross Kear, Penonn, Llanfarcfan** – first floor extension over living room to form master bedroom with en-suite bathroom.

Mr Nefydd Jones – **130 Westbourne Road, Penarth** – single storey ground floor extension to the rear of the property.

Mr Mike Jones – **20 West Farm Road, Ogmormore by Sea** – single storey dining room extension.

S Andrews & Son (Pwllheli) Ltd – **7c Willow Walk, Cowbridge** – alteration of ground floor unit to form restaurant and associated external alterations.

Mr and Mrs J and S Pryce – **Wayside,**

Westgate, Cowbridge – demolition of existing single storey dwelling which is to be replaced with a new dwelling.

Mr Matt Tuck – **Barn C, Sheepcote Farm, Bonvilston** – conversion of redundant agricultural buildings into a residential dwelling, including extensions and alterations (amendment to previously approved scheme).

Dovrill Ltd – **Buy Memory Cards, Unit 21a Vale Business Park, Llandow, Cowbridge** – office extension to existing industrial unit.

Mr Morecroft – **Winchfield House, Graig Penllyn** – shed to rear of property.

Mr Craig Freeman – **Hillside House, The Tumble, St Nicholas** – new garage and study at first floor to replace existing garage/workshop in poor condition.

Mr Justin Isaac – **54 High Street, Cowbridge** – extension and alteration to rear section of building.

One Stop Stores – **One Stop Stores (ex Spar Stores), 1 Winston Road, Barry** – one fascia sign with internally illuminated by LEDs 'One Stop' and externally illuminated by overhead trough light vinyl lettering front elevation. One fascia sign internally illuminated by LEDs to side elevation. One internally illuminated by LEDs projection sign to front elevation. One internally illuminated by LEDs 'Free cash/withdrawals' sign fitted above cash machine. One set of four digitally printed window graphics. One door vinyl 'One Stop'.

Mrs Elaine Robinson – **The Garlands Livery, Walerston, Llanfarcfan** – refurbishment of existing dwelling including new rear extension.

Mr David Glyndwr Jenkins – **Bryn y Ddafad Guest House, Bryn y Ddafad, Welsh St Donats** – solar PV panels fitted to house roof, solar thermal panels fitted to house roof. Biomass boiler installed adjacent to oil boiler in existing boiler room (oil boiler to remain as back-up).

CAD Properties Ltd – **79 Holton Road, Barry** – change of use of vacant retail unit to coffee shop/restaurant use (limited A3 use). Repair and alteration of existing building to include installation of new shop front.

Mr James Ritchie – **22 Victoria Road, Penarth** – enlarge the existing 1970s extension towards the rear of the house to accommodate a large living room to connect with the existing kitchen and dining area; open up the kitchen and dining rooms and create a larger opening between the house and extension. Also part of the works in this new area will be a wine cellar and WC. The alterations will include new windows, and large glazed bi-folding doors to the rear.

Mrs Deborah Komianos – **Bryn Sion Chapel House, St Brides Major** – various works to repair building.

Mr James Colberston – **23 Whitehall Close, Wenvoe** – erection of single and two storey rear extensions.

Mr and Mrs Sarah and Jay Townsend – **10 Glan**

y Nant, Treoes – proposed extension to rear of property, making a single storey existing kitchen/living space two storey – adding two bedrooms to the property.

Mr Lyndon Charles Ham – **9 Glan y Nant, Treoes** – double storey rear extension.

Mr Rhys Probert – **Tinkinswood Farm, Duffryn Lane, St Nicholas** – to replace the existing single storey rear extension with a modern two storey rear extension.

Mr Eugene McCarthy – **Tynwaun Farm, Newton, Cowbridge** – steel frame portal barn.

Force Strength & Conditioning – **Solideal UK Ltd, 64-65 Vale Business Park, Llandow** – the change of use of unit 65 from B1, B8 to D2.

Mrs Sarah Edwards – **The Granary, St Mary's Well Bay Road, Swanbridge, Penarth** – raised ridge. Raise front and side gable wall. Hip to gable roof extension. Front, side and rear apex dormer.

Homeside House – **Homeside House, Bradford Place, Penarth** – various remedial works and removal of Norway maple.

Mr Alan Carr – **The Old Vicarage, Colwinston** – loft conversion to create games room above garage.

Sinclair Holdings – **Cogan Hotel, Hewell Street, Penarth** – interior fit out and refurbishment of existing public house to three apartments – private residential.

Western Power Distribution – **Tower VV30, off Five Mile Lane, Barry** – application under Section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 for erection of approximately 20 metres of 33kv overhead line.

Ms Harrison – **8 Bassett Road, Sully** – to erect a white uPVC conservatory at the rear of the property.

Fitz Project Management – **Three Horseshoes Inn, Moulton** – community events and functions marquee.

Mr Ian Rogers – **28 Barry Road, Barry** – change of use of ground floor shop unit into two bedroom flat and reduction of four bed flat part ground floor and first floor into two bedroom first floor flat.

Ms Claire Critchley – **15 Archer Road, Penarth** – Norway maple (on Victoria Road boundary) undertake 50 per cent reduction to pollard regrowths. Ash tree (on rear boundary) dismantle three stems leaning over lawn, cut stems to ground level. Undertake 35 per cent crown reduction to remaining stems and prune to remove low lateral limb.

Mr Steve Mulcahy – **33 Augusta Crescent, Penarth** – extension to rear of property and conversion of roof space to house two bedrooms and roof dormer to house a new bathroom. Garage to be rebuilt.

Mr Nick Wall – **34 Smithies Avenue, Sully** – two storey dwelling house, parking and access (amended version of previously approved fully planning permission granted on same site, recently renewed).

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL (UN-NAMED LANE, 5 MILE LANE TO MOULTON (PART)) (ROAD CLOSURE) (TEMPORARY) ORDER 2013

1. On 10th January 2013 the Vale of Glamorgan Council in exercise of its powers under Section 14 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended), made an Order the general effect of which is as described in the schedules below:

2. The Order will be known as "The Vale of Glamorgan Council (Un-Named Lane, 5 Mile Lane to Moulton (Part)) (Road Closure) (Temporary) Order" 2013.

SCHEDULE 1

No person shall cause or permit a motor vehicle to proceed in the location specified in Schedule 2 below.

SCHEDULE 2

Location	Description
The un-named lane that extends in a generally westerly direction from the junction with The Five Mile Lane at grid 307939 170255 to the junction at grid 307389 170121 to the western side of The Three Horseshoes public house at Moulton. A distance of approximately 570m.	
Reason	To allow essential water main renewal work to take place.
Duration	8.00am on Monday 14th January 2013 until 5.00pm on Sunday 3rd February 2013.
Alt. Route	Diversion for westbound traffic during the above closure will be signed in a southerly direction along A4226 - The Five Mile Lane to the Waycock Cross roundabout, then turning right at this junction and proceeding in a generally westerly direction to the Penmark roundabout and turning right towards Penmark, follow along this country lane and turn right into Cuckoo Mill Lane, then turning right at the end of this lane, and continuing along this lane to the western end of the closure, and visa-versa.

Access for residents of the lane will be maintained from one end or the other. Emergency Vehicle access will be maintained.

NB: Pedestrian access will be maintained at all times.

Dated this 10th day of January 2013.

M. E. Punter,
Director of Visible Services & Housing
Vale of Glamorgan Council,
The Alps, Wenvoe. CF5 6AA.



COWBRIDGE COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL SPORTS REPORT

NETBALLERS DO SCHOOL PROUD

THE year-7B netball team played in the Cardiff and Vale Development**Tournament on Tuesday, December 11.**

Due to the vast up and coming netball talent throughout our county, the Sports Council for Wales, in association with Welsh netball, put together this tournament to encourage and reward greater participation.

The rules of entry stated that no players that had played in A Team fixtures were allowed to play.

Cowbridge faced Radyr, Bro Morgannwg, Howells and Cathays in the preliminary round-robin section of the tournament and despite facing tough opposition, the Cowbridge team thrived, beating Howells 3-0, Bro Morgannwg 3-1, Radyr 3-0 and Cathays 1-0.

The team of Manou Davies, Imogen Malor, Rachel Anstey, Sarah Jones, Izzy Utley, Molly Ward-Tossell, Freya Evans, Ciraice Stimson-Jagger and Freya Johnson all played in at least two out of the four matches and played exceptionally well.

As winners of the pool, Cowbridge had a 'bye' in the next round and gained automatic qualification into the quarter finals in the cup competition. We then faced Howells second team in the quarter finals and raced to an excellent 5-0 victory, thanks to the accurate shooting of Imogen Marlor at GA and Manou Davies at GS, taking Cowbridge through to the semi-finals!

We faced Fitzalan in the semi-final, a team who were much taller than the Cowbridge girls and used their height to their full advantage to beat us 0-2 at full time.

It was a shame to go out at such a late stage in the competition but reaching the semi-finals in something the girls should be very proud of and we ended up a very respectable equal third

out of 24 teams, which is an outstanding result. Well done to all the girls!

Players of the match: Molly Ward-Tossell and Sarah Jones.

The year-10 netball team played in the preliminary round of the county tournament at Whitchurch High School on Wednesday, December 12.

Cowbridge were drawn in a really strong pool against Radyr, Plasmawr and reigning champions Corpus Christi.

We played Radyr first and after losing to them by one point in the recent Urdd tournament, the Cowbridge girls were keen to seek revenge and forged ahead to lead 3-2 at half time.

In the second half, outstanding defence from Rebecca Thomas at GK and Hannah Lister-Sims at GD kept the Radyr attack at bay and a solid performance from Megan McNamee at C enabled the Cowbridge attack to dominate.

Kim Jerwood at GA and Laura Young at GS were on target and led the Cowbridge team to a well deserved 5-3 victory.

In the next match against Plasmawr, Cowbridge got off to a steady and solid start taking the lead to 2-1 at half time.

In the second half, Cowbridge had the aim of reaching five goals to better the previous half's score. An excellent performance from Yas Evans at GK kept Cowbridge in contention and an outstanding team performance enabled the girls to reach their target and secure a 5-1 win.

In the final deciding match, Cowbridge played Corpus Christi, who are reigning county champions and renowned for their club and county players.

Despite a gutsy team performance, with outstanding performances from Megan McNamee

at C, Hannah Lister-Sims at WD and Kim Jerwood at GA, the Corpus team were dominant and the score finished at 10-4.

As a result, the Cowbridge girls finished second in the pool and Corpus advance to the county finals. Well done to all the girls: Yas Evans, Rebecca Thomas, Hannah Lister-Sims, Sally Gambling, Megan McNamee, Ellie Davies, Evie Williams, Kim Jerwood and Laura Young.

Player of the Match: Hannah Lister-Sims.

Well done to Kim Jerwood in year-10 who has been selected into the Cardiff Hub netball development squad.

Well done to Joanna Wilkins who has been asked to train with the under-17 Welsh Netball Squad, and also Caitlin Allin, who has achieved the most man of the match awards across netball in Cowbridge this term.

Congratulations to all the girls. Keep up the hard work!

Also, well done to Maya Bell, Ffion Vickers and Bethan Swallow, who have been selected into the second round of the Cardiff Netball Development Squad.

The next trial will take place at the end of January – good luck girls!

The year-8 Urdd netball tournament was played at the Cardiff Met, NIACC Cardiff.

We drew Bishopston in our first round. It was a very well matched game with the score showing how close the game was. We went ahead 2-1 in the first few minutes and then Bishopston came back with two goals.

Accurate shooting from Annabel Hegarty brought us up and we led 4-3. Again Bishopston came back and we lost 4-5 on the final play.

We had a long wait to play Dyffryn Aman in the second round. It was a close game again and disappointingly, the same score was repeated as we lost 4-5.

Our next match was against Pontarddulais and we were the stronger team with a final score of 4-0.

Cowbridge finally played Plasmawr who proved the better team, winning 6-3.

Although we lost three matches and won one, the girls played well and enjoyed the experience of the day.

RUGBY

ON December 10, the Cowbridge year-8 rugby team played their third fixture of the season.

Having lost their first game in two years against Plasmawr, Cowbridge were out to show that this was just a bad day and something that would not be occurring again anytime soon.

Cowbridge started

very well, with all the early possession and territory.

Stanwell though remained strong, and stopped Cowbridge crossing for the first try. Stanwell forced a penalty in their own 22, and began to progress down the field.

This possession did not last for long, with Cowbridge tackling hard and forcing mistakes, resulting in the ball being turned over.

Cowbridge kept on attacking, and eventually broke down the Stanwell defence. Rhys Durlucia opened the scoring, with a smashing run through the heart of the defence dive over the line. Bevan Howells to make the lead 7-0.

The second try came from some excellent rugby, with backs and forwards were interlinking brilliantly, passing the ball along the line with ease.

Reuben Williams (year-7) burst through a couple of tacklers, and provided a sublime pass to Rhidian Williams.

Rhidian had a lot of work to do to get over the line and outpaced the wing, side-stepped back inside, and sent the last tackler the wrong way, for a superb individual and team try.

The first half ended, and Cowbridge were leading 12-0. With Cowbridge still not hitting their peak performance, they could not wait for the second half to begin.

Tom Williams produced the perfect start. After picking the ball up on the half-way line, Tom bashed his way through, around and over the defence, and sprinted to the try line, for a try under the posts.

Tom highlighted his talent by starting the game at No 8, but switching to wing for the second half, and doing an excellent job at both positions.

Cowbridge were not finished yet, and kept on turning the screw. A quick penalty was taken by Ioan Williams. The ball was passed out to Rhys Bradshaw, who wriggled his way through the defence, and slipped the ball to Bevan, who ran a great supporting angle and scored the try.

Cowbridge had enough time for Rhidian to score his second try of the match. Reuben, again heavily involved in the play, made the hard yards, and then with outstanding decision making and handling skills, shipped the ball to Rhidian outside, to run in for the last try of the match.

Bevan added further insult to injury, by kicking the conversion from the touchline.

The game ended, and Cowbridge won 33-0.

Players of the match: Rhidian Williams, Tom Williams, Reuben Williams and Rhys Durlucia.

SKIING

FOLLOWING the success of pupils in the Welsh Schools skiing competition, two girls and two boys teams got through to the British School Artificial Skiing competition, held this year in Pontypool on November 18.

It was a bitterly cold but sunny day, perfect fast conditions for the ski slope, if not for the spectators. We had success with our boys A team finishing in second overall position, well done boys.

The boys B team finished 19th and unfortunately, both girls' teams were not placed, with too many disqualified runs.

Individual results: Ben Thomas - 10th (40.96); Harry Hopkins - 11th (41.15); Ben Jones - 38th (48.54); Jamie Griffiths - 50th (50.57); Henry Jones - 61st (53.17); Nick Griffiths - 62nd (53.23); John Harvey - 63rd (54.00).

Girls results: Amy Oliver - 54th (1.05.35); Sophia Harpin - 55th (1.06.82); Olivia Brown dnf; Caitlin Jones dnf; Hannah Crosby dnf; Maisie Beech dnf; Cerys Bradshaw dnf; Suzy Jones dnf.

Well done to all those who took part.

FOOTBALL ON a cold December afternoon, the Cowbridge year-10 football team entertained Glantaf in a second round cup tie.

The 3G artificial pitch was used in order to preserve the grass pitches, currently recovering from the sustained poor weather.

Cowbridge kicked off and it was immediately apparent that Glantaf would provide stern opposition.

The Welsh school were keen to dominate possession and included a number of passing midfielders in their ranks.

Allied to the size of the spine of their side, Cowbridge were going to have to be at their battling best.

However, this particular team does not lack for character and coach/ref Mr Lewis was confident of a competitive fixture.

After some early tussles, with both sides defending stoutly, Glantaf counter attacked and pounced to take a 1-0 lead.

They were pegged back within five minutes as Max Ragan scooped a cross-shot into the top right-hand corner of the opposition net.

The remainder of the half was characterised by Glantaf controlling possession but Cowbridge looking increasingly dangerous, attacking on either flank.

The second half continued in the same competitive manner, with both sides determined pressing for the vital winner, and Glantaf



seized the initiative with a decent shot that gave them a one-goal advantage.

Again, Cowbridge fought back and some neat interplay on the left produced an equaliser. Furious attacking from both sides could not produce a winner and extra time was required.

Both sides looked dangerous as the added time unfolded, but it was undoubtedly the home side that was the more adventurous, taking the game to Glantaf and three times testing their 'keeper.

In the last minute of extra time, when Glantaf had certainly settled for a penalty shootout, Cowbridge poured forward.

A cross from the left and a header directed toward goal resulted in a Glantaf defender handling on the line to prevent the winner from being scored.

Referee Lewis had no option but to award the penalty and Joe Treharne stepped up and slotted the ball home.

With the final seconds played out under tremendous Glantaf pressure, the home side held on for a great win.

HOCKEY THE year-7 hockey team played seven-a-side matches against Bro Morgannwg on an extremely cold wet afternoon.

Cowbridge A team had a good first match, with a 0-0 result at the end.

In the second game, Cowbridge lost 3-2, with goals from Ffion McNamee and Mali Howell. Ffion was named player of the match.

Team: Ffion McNamee, Mali Howell, Aimee Jones, Meriel Clode, Emily Jenkins, Georgia Armitage and Rachel Anstey.

Cowbridge B team lost their first match 6-0 and their second match 2-1, with the goal scored by Amelia Bent.

Special mention must go to Sarah Jones, Eleanor Acey and Kate Workman, who worked hard throughout the game.

Team: Amelia Bent, Sarah Jones, Francesca Weir, Isabelle Utley, Eleanor Acey, Rose Farr, Mia Riddick and Kate Workman.

The senior hockey

team played Whitchurch and Howells in the county final on December 11 at Whitchurch on a really cold evening.

We played a hard fought match against Whitchurch and had several breaks into their goal circle.

They defended really well, stopping us scoring in the first half.

In the second half, Rachel Bradshaw broke through and scored. The standard of play was excellent, with Katie Howson and Rachel Bradshaw feeding each other and the play was backed up with skilled work from Izzy Eddy-Williams and Rosa

Hartman. Final score 1-0. In our second match, we were stronger, even though Howells had more breaks through into our circle.

We defended very well and cleared the ball convincingly, Laura Howells playing outstandingly.

We scored twice, Rachel Bradshaw coming through on her own to score a clean goal, and then Olivia Brown, making the final score 2-0.

Cowbridge go through to the Welsh final to be played in North Wales on March 5.

Very well done girls.

Rugby quiz clash will help the Stepping Stones Appeal

WELSH rugby is getting behind a popular local charity – the Stepping Stones Appeal.

Present and past stars of the Ospreys and Cardiff Blues will battle it out in a Question of Sport special in aid of Velindre Cancer Centre's Stepping Stones Appeal, the Ospreys' chosen charity for the 2012/13 season.

Adam Jones, Alun Wyn Jones, Ian Gough, Sam Warburton, Martyn Williams and Tom Shanklin will be just some of the team members at the event, which takes place on Thursday, February 28, at The Towers Hotel in Swansea.

Ospreys captain Alun Wyn Jones said: "We're all looking forward to going head to head with the Blues for a great cause."

"We've got Adam Jones in our team and with his record when he appeared on TV in a Question of Sport, we are confident of securing the win."

Martyn Williams said: "We know we're up against one of the country's foremost sporting anoraks in Adam Jones and we go in as firm underdogs. However, with Tom Shanklin in the team, anything is possi-

ble!" Tickets for this event are £35 each and tables of 10 are available. The price includes a drink on arrival, a three-course dinner, superb entertainment plus a raffle and auction with some fantastic prizes.

Tickets can be booked online at: www.velindreundraising.com/book online or call Velindre Fundraising on 029 2031 6211.

Velindre Cancer Centre launched the Stepping Stones Appeal, a lung cancer research programme, to both increase awareness of their work, and to raise the money necessary to continue to fund and expand their research programmes.

Following the success of a number of fundraising initiatives including the Captains' Climb of Mount Kilimanjaro, Mair's Walk and the Stepping Stones rugby gala dinners, over £350,000 has been invested enabling the Wales Cancer Bank to be able to collect lung cancer samples for the first time ever.

These samples will then be used by researchers around the world to improve understanding of lung cancer, which will help in the search for new treatments.

All change at Shotokan club

DUE to the changes made recently at Llantwit Leisure Centre, it has been necessary for the Llantwit Major Shotokan Karate club to seek new premises.

I am pleased to report that due to the kind support of Wing Commander Paul Regan, Officer Commanding MOD St Athan and his PE staff, we are now up and running in the MoD St Athan Gymnasium.

Club nights remain as before, Wednesday and Friday 6.30-8pm. Access to the MoD Camp is through East Gate guard room and all

new members will be escorted onto the premises by a club member.

We have superb facilities and I would like to invite and encourage all those looking to keep fit and learn a discipline which will last for life, to come along and give karate a try. The first session is free so you have nothing to lose.

Please contact Sensei Simon Dodd on 01446 751077 or 07917441138 for more details.

I would just like to add a 'happy new year' to all my students and thank you for your continued support during these changes. It is much appreciated.

SIMON DODD

Barry Youth's winning run comes to a crashing halt!

HAVING had matches postponed due to inclement weather, and after being without training facilities over the Christmas period, Barry Youth were more than a little rusty going into this fixture with Pentryrch.

To add further problems, there were players absent from key positions.

Within minutes of the kick-off, confusion in the centre led to a huge gap which Pentryrch took advantage of, and they scored a converted try through their winger.

A similar error minutes later led to a chip over the Barry defence and a race to the line by the Pentryrch winger. This time the Barry scrum half got back to make it a drop out 22.

Barry rallied from this

early onslaught and found themselves camped in the opposition 22 for long periods of time. Sadly, four Barry line-outs were robbed by Pentryrch, cancelling out good scoring opportunities.

Pentryrch eventually cleared their lines and Barry had to come away from without a score.

Just on the half, Pentryrch robbed another Barry line-out and moved it through the

backs to their wing, who scored an unconverted try.

Early in the second half, Barry were turned over in the loose – something that was now beginning to happen regularly – and Pentryrch came away with another unconverted try.

On top this, captain Luke O'Sullivan had to leave the field due to injury. Although Barry battled hard, tackled well and individually played

ruggedly, as a team they didn't.

There was no cohesion, support was lacking and they did not commit numbers in the loose, whereas Pentryrch were doing the opposite and soon scored another converted try.

Pentryrch heeled their first against the head and with the line in sight drove and scored again.

The next score, however, did belong to Barry when John Miles ripped a ball from a Pentryrch maul and passed back to Lucas Davies who drove 20 metres down the blind side to score an unconverted try.

But back at the office, Pentryrch stuck to their game plan, carried on driving relentlessly, giving their back division plenty of quick going forward ball, and this resulted in two more unconverted tries.

The final score was 39-5 the heaviest loss for a long time and the end of a six-match winning run.

Squad: Blake Wall, David Evans, Mathew O'Sullivan, Lucas Davies, Rhidian Mephram, Tom Adams, Jack Legg, Jake Adams, Kieran Davies, Sion Vidal, Mitchell Scott, Jamie Oaten, John Miles, Emyr Byrne, Luke O'Sullivan, Josh Taylor, Andre Williamson and Tom Ellis.

MM

News from Brynhill Golf Club Ladies

THE wet and very muddy conditions have badly affected the ladies this winter, and the turnout for competitions has been very low, but despite the weather, some excellent scores were recorded.

Congratulations to the following players who 'weathered the storm' and won!

Turkey trots:
November 27 (week 1), 8 holes winner Linda Hewlett, 14 points;
December 4 (week 2), 10 holes winner Jane Phillips, 17 points;
December 11 (week 3), 10 holes winner Linda Hewlett, 17 points;
December 18 (week 4), 10 holes winner Rose Pitman, 21 points.

The final competition, held on December 18, was in conjunction with a mince pie and wine morning, the wine generously donated by the present ladies' captain Julie Harkin, and this year's vice-captain Carole Bumford.

Nibbles and pies were made by the ladies and were enjoyed by the large number who obviously found the social occasion more attractive than the golf.

Raffles were organised and the proceeds generously donated to Velindre Hospital.

AP



Past captain Jo Kirkpatrick (right) presenting the hamper raffled for Velindre Hospital to Alma Sheppard.



Vice captain Carole Bumford dispensing Christmas cheer!

Rose Pitman, winner of the mince pie competition.

Barry Bees take sting out of Newport HSOB's power pack

BARRY Bees under-10s entertained an extremely powerful Newport High School Old Boys side after the festive break.

It was clear from the first tackle that the Old Boys game plan would be based around their huge forwards, when a fearless Stephen Williams scythed down one of their enormous second rowers as he pounded remorselessly down the slope.

This set the pattern for the opening encounters with the Bees' defence pushing their much bigger opponents backwards, and eventually forcing the inevitable turnover, with stand-off Cian Anderson scoring the opener from the Bees first possession, after a signature dummy.

The Newport side were clearly not used to such unrelenting tack-

ling and the Bees seized the initiative, with flying prop Rhys Lloyd taking a defence-splitting pass on the wing, outpacing the covering defence to score in the corner.

The Old Boys responded strongly and using the slope to their advantage, scored a deserved try to bring them back into contention.

This again spurred the Bees on, and tireless hooker Jacob Pereira bustled his way over after a series of powerful drives from the forwards to put Barry in a commanding position at the break.

With the slope in their favour for the second half, the Bees were expecting to dominate, but the Old Boys were far from beaten, and their sheer power was taking its toll on the Barry boys, as they gained the initiative at the breakdown with some aggressive rucking.

With the Bees struggling to cope with the increased tempo Newport scored two excellent tries to bring the scores level.

The game was now in the balance but the Bees showed their usual indomitable spirit to quell the Newport power, and their superior ball skills and technical ability came to the fore, as they dominated the closing stages of the match.

Two great tries from Cian made the final score 25-15 in what was a full blooded match that was much enjoyed by the parents from both sides.

Squad: Isaac McBride, Jacob Pereira, Rhys Lloyd, Dylan Morris, Ethan Watkins, Joseph Nationstead, Joe Tanner, Stephen Williams, Cian Anderson, Spencer Williams, James Chapman, Taylor Ross-Zeal, Cole Saunders, Robson Mallam, Simon McKenzie. JM

MM

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Citroen DS3 offers style, practicality and speed

Those are the three key qualities of the Citroen DS3 Ultra Prestige that I am testing this week.

The moment I clap eyes on the sleek white hatch with blacked out rear windows and detailed alloys, I know that we're going to get on well.

I can relate to the DS3 because Citroen has taken the hatchback and added its own unique angle, much in the same way that I try to with my writing. No matter what you do in life, if you can stand out from the crowd for all the right reasons you'll do well and that's what Citroen specialises in.

The French manufacturer, so my wife, an

experienced graphic designer and artist tells me, has taken the DS letters and created a unique logo, splashing it liberally throughout the vehicle. This distinctive emblem can be found in black across the roof while a chrome version can be found on the boot and bonnet. It is also used on the dashboard.

Externally the DS3 is a very appealing package and this is maintained inside. It's only available as a three-door, which is just as well as it would lose its charm if two extra ones were added.

This range-topping model has a choice of two engines: a 1.6-litre petrol or a diesel.

There's a stark difference in performance and economy figures for the pair. The petrol will hit

60mph from standstill in about seven seconds and has a top speed of 130mph.

It will return 47mpg; so does the 1.4-litre VW Polo but that takes over four seconds longer to travel from 0-60mph.

Diesel drivers are always most interested in economy so the 74mpg is sure to please them while the 9.4secs 0 to 60mph and 118mph top speed is more than adequate.

As I slide into the superb leather seat that cossets in all the right places, the first thing that catches the eye is the two-tone black and cream leather dashboard.

This is mirrored on the seats. The designers have really gone to town on the DS3 and the driver certainly feels they are driving a prestigious

MOTORING with TIM SAUNDERS

vehicle as the name suggests.

There's a traditional handbrake rather than any of this modern electric nonsense and a very good six-speed manual gearbox. This is a proper driver's car with some room in the rear, large enough at any rate to fit daughter Harriett in her cumbrous baby seat; although it is a bit of a struggle to get it into the rear due to the front seat not going far enough forward.

For a car of this size more should be made of the room inside. When there are rear passengers those in the front have to have their seats so far forward that it is uncomfortable. The boot is

only as large as my Fiesta's while there is less room in the back for rear passengers.

An annoying rattle develops during the course of the test, which my wife reckons comes from the stereo.

But it's loaded with goodies including cruise control. This is operated by a fixed stalk on the left of the steering wheel, which is a good idea so that it can be easily operated no matter how much the wheel is turned.

This function is useful on a long motorway jaunt and it is reasonably reliable when travelling uphill maintaining speed within a few mph. But when travelling downhill

it does not hold the set speed; a hindrance in a residential area with speed cameras.

Other luxuries include air conditioning, electric windows and a good quality stereo. The black wing mirrors, which contrast beautifully against the white bodywork, automatically fold when the car's locked as you can see in the video at testdrives.biz.

Its boot is large enough to fit the shopping or a briefcase and laptop bag. Twice I hit my head on the black parcel shelf, which merges into the black of the cold winter's night. It seems to be just at the right spot to catch me as I bend down to grab my bags from the boot.

Parkers, the car experts, write: "The Citroen DS3 is the first

in a range of very different Citroen models that put the emphasis on style and personality, along with strong performance and driver appeal. Indeed, it has a lot going for it in the looks department: the sharkfin-shaped mid-pillar isn't traditional – you might even call it quirky – and the overall shape is much slicker than the more sedate C3 on which it is based. The 'DS' badge reflects Citroen's glory days when it built armadillo-shaped super saloons with hydro-pneumatic suspension that wafted and wallowed with a sense of occasion that no

other manufacturer could match. With its stylish looks and compact size, it's easy to see why so many comparisons have been drawn with the popular Mini and Fiat 500."

Verdict: An excellent driver's car and those with short friends will have no complaints, especially if they have no need to get anything from the boot!

New price range:
£14,850 - £20,950
Citroën DS3 (10 on):
0-60mph: 7.1secs, top speed: 130mph, power: 155bhp, economy: 47mpg, fuel tank: 48 litres.

Watch the video at: www.testdrives.biz.



PICTURED: Wayne Harhry, Jamie Halford, Emily Halford, Morganne Gomez Jones, Matthew Bennett, Bradley Halford, Alan Evans, Ron Thomas, Mason Blackley, Cody Jacobsen, Evan Baron, Joel Wells, Brook Baker and Thomas Haysham.

Cadoxton Schools of Tae Kwon Do annual awards

ON Friday, December 21, the Cadoxton Schools of Tae Kwon Do celebrated an extremely successful year with its annual awards presentation and disco at Market Street Club.

The night was a great success with parents and students alike all enjoying themselves.

The 'best beginner award' went to Brook Baker, while the 'most potential' trophy was awarded to Evan Baron. Evan was also the recipient of the club's 'best of grading' at the last grading of 2012.

The 'most improved female' and 'most improved male' awards went to Emily Halford and Mason Blackley; they have both worked hard at their basic techniques showing that they have a good future within the martial art of Tae Kwon Do.

'Competitor of 2012' went to Thomas Haysham, who has moved up a category and is now competing against bigger opponents, but this has not deterred him.

Joel Wells was the recipient of the persever-

ance trophy, as over the past year he has showed remarkable perseverance not only on the tournament scene, but also in weekly training.

Cody Jacobsen received the 'best attendance' trophy having only missed three training sessions all year, showing not only his dedication but also his parents' commitment to his training.

The 'Indomitable Spirit award' went to Alan Evans; Alan has only been competing for the past six months and has shown his will to win along with good sportsmanship.

Two special awards are given out in memory of Charles Ames and Michael Conibear, and the very popular Bradley Halford was the recipient of the 'Michael Conibear (star student) award', which was donated to the club by Michael's mother.

Wayne Harhry received the 'Charles Ames Memorial Shield', for his work with the students and for winning his personal battle over the past 12 months.

'Student of the year' went to Matthew Bennett for his all-round ability hard work and dedication to the art of Tae Kwon Do.

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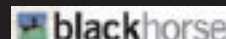
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GEM sport

New Year blues for Llantwit AFC who fall to league leaders

HAVING won six out of six of their games towards the end of 2012 the Major were looking forward to travelling to league leaders, Cardiff Metropolitan University, for their first league match of 2013.

Poor weather and four postponed games in December took its toll on the Major following their previous good run of form and they went down heavily to the well organized and disciplined university students.

The game got under

CARDIFF METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY LLANTWIT MAJOR AFC

4
1

way on a pleasant sunny day in Cyncoed and both teams had chances in the early part of the game.

The home side settled first and had a good shot just wide following a poor clearance out of the Major's defence.

Soon after Rhys Gould cleared a cross and put the ball out for a corner saving an almost certain goal.

The Major had a couple of half chances but their shots went wide or over the bar. On 20 minutes Jack Lansdown, in the visitors' goal, made a half save but the ball dropped at the feet of

Ashton who struck a beauty to put the home side in front.

The Major quickly broke back up field with Lindsay finding the youngster Renfree with a quickly taken throw-in. The youngster crossed well but unfortunately Sean Nash blasted over the bar.

Shortly afterwards following some good midfield battles the Major broke forward again only for Nash to put his shot wide.

The Major had another chance on 25 minutes and on 35 minutes Lansdown cleared

quickly to Robinson who then found Roscrow on the halfway line and unmarked.

He broke forward at pace and shot well wide when a pass to either of two unmarked team mates would have been a better option.

The Met then had another good chance themselves but this was put wide. The Major were losing a lot of possession with poor passes being played out from the defence and poor control in midfield; they soon paid the price when possession was lost again in midfield and fullback Andy Shaw was well beaten by the winger who crossed well and the home side went two up with another good shot on target.

Half time came and with it a change for the visitors with Dawes replacing Shaw; however, yet more poor possession and scrappy clearances from the defence were punished by two goals from Cardiff Met, the second a great volley which could well be the "goal of the season".

The Major were clearly shaken but in fairness they did not give up when four nil down and all looked lost.

Twenty minutes into the second half the Major pulled one back when a penalty was awarded following a good throw-in by Dawes

who found Cox in the 6 yard box and he was pushed unfairly in the back; Lindsay knocked in the penalty.

Shortly after from a similar position the Major were disappointed not to be awarded a second penalty when Nash was wrestled off the ball but the referee waved play-on.

There was nothing between the teams in the final quarter of the game but the three goal lead was sufficient for the home side to see the game out and the league leaders deserved their 4 - 1 win.

The Major remain 4th in the league table and hopefully several of the squad, who simply didn't play well, will learn a lesson from this game and bounce back next weekend.

The Llantwit Major AFC squad: Lansdown, Shaw, Cox, Robinson, Gould, T Rees, Jones, Roscrow, Renfree, Lindsay, Nash, Dawes, Constant, Morgan, Faux and Whitlam.

The Major's next fixture is at home to Treharris Athletic Western on January 12, KO 2pm. The club wishes to thank their sponsors, Watts and Morgan, MPI Aviation and also The GEM for its continued support.

PL

Under-12s in seesaw battle with Llanishen

AFTER a four week break due to the weather, Cowbridge under-12s continued their unbeaten run with a hard fought away victory at Llanishen.

The game was supposed to be the second round of the Blues Cup, but unfortunately the neutral referee did not turn up and hence the cup game could not be played. Instead both coaches agreed to play thirds of 20 minutes each.

Llanishen started the game much the stronger, and applied a huge amount of pressure straight away with some clever kicking out of hand. Only a great cover

tackle in the corner from the Cowbridge open-side Ben Jones, stopped an early Llanishen try.

This early pressure was only released when Gabriel Davies came in from his left wing to brilliantly intercept a Llanishen backs move.

Davies ran the length of the field fending off Llanishen defenders as he went. He was finally dragged down only 10 metres from the Llanishen line.

This led to Cowbridge winning a scrum against the head and the powerful Cowbridge No 8, Reuben Williams, being held up over the line. End of the first third 0 - 0.

The second third played out pretty much the same as the first, with both teams applying pressure without putting the opposition line under threat. Llanishen were kicking tactically very well and kept putting the Cowbridge back three under pressure.

However, it was Cowbridge who finally broke the deadlock, from an attacking scrum just inside the Llanishen 22.

R.Williams picked up and ran hard at the Llanishen blind side wing, after some quick recycled ball and some good simple passing by the backs, Harry Ridge the flying Cowbridge outside centre found himself in some space at last.

Ridge outpaced the covering defence to score the game's first try far out in the corner; however, Llanishen came straight back at Cowbridge and scored a typical forwards' try in the corner following a number of phases close to the Cowbridge line. 5 - 5.

In the last play of the second third Llanishen were awarded a penalty under the Cowbridge posts, with the Cowbridge team resigned to a kick at goal, the Llanishen outside half took a quick tap penalty to put his inside centre over for a try in the corner. End of the second third, and the score was Llanishen 10 - Cowbridge 5.

The final twenty minutes of the game saw the flood gates open in terms of tries, when both teams started to struggle in the boggy conditions and lack of match fitness began to tell.

Cowbridge ran a blind side move from a scrum only for Llanishen to turn the ball over at the breakdown.

Ben Jones pounced on the Llanishen scrum half, stayed on his feet and stole the ball. He then set off on a strong run to score under the post. Ioan Williams converted. Llanishen 10 - Cowbridge 12.

From the resulting kick off Llanishen scored a try straight away. With the conditions deteriorating, handling errors started to creep into the game and the Cowbridge team failed to gather the kick off allowing Llanishen to score wide to regain the lead 15-12.

The Cowbridge team began to see the benefit of kicking out of defence given the conditions, and from one of Tom Humphreys' clearing kicks came Cowbridge's third try of the game.

Humphreys' kick was gathered by his opposite full back who had his kick charged down, and on hand was Harry Ridge to score his second try of the game under the posts.

Cowbridge showed great character and determination to keep coming back to win the game. We look forward to the re-arranged Blues Cup second round game in a few weeks time. Well done boys, well played.

GJ

Weather still thorn in the side for Cowbridge RFC

THERE is still no rugby to report since the victory over Llandaff North on December 8.

Everyone, players and supporters, were extremely disappointed that the Llantwit game had to be postponed, but with the ground looking more like a paddy field

than a rugby pitch there was no other option.

Last Saturday's fixture against Pontycymmer had to be postponed as they had to play a rearranged Swalec Bowl match, which take precedence over league games.

So it's into the new year with a trip to Taffs Well this Saturday. Taffs Well are just below us in the league but with just 6 points to our 16.

Having defeated them 30-8 in September, another convincing victory would take us within striking distance of next placed Llantwit Major so this is a very important match.

The following week we are at home to Clwb Rygbi Caerdydd and the boys will be keen to avenge the defeat earlier in the season.

On January 26 we are away to Llandaff.

This should be a very exciting second half of the season. Several of the defeats before Christmas were by small margins and there is no reason why we should not reverse those defeats and move up the table.

As always the great support is much appreciated by the boys and may it continue right into April.

RV/RK

William's Wishes wins!

LLANCAERFAN trainer Evan Williams saw his eight-year-old William's Wishes land a five-timer when finishing two lengths ahead of Nozic in the 32Red Casino Handicap Chase at Sandown on Saturday.

The even money favourite was ridden by stable jockey Paul Moloney.

Twenty four hours earlier at Musselburgh, Alphabetical Order, trained by Tim Vaughan at Aberthorn, made the long trip worth while when winning the Open National Hunt Flat race under Richard Johnson.

A 4-1 chance, Alphabetical Order, a previous winner, came home three and a half lengths ahead of the favourite Brijomi Queen. Vaughan was unlucky not to win the £35,000 Juvenile Hurdle at

Chepstow on Saturday as his Swynmor had the race all sewn up only to fall at the last obstacle granting the race to Ruacana.

The Coral Welsh National looked like being won by a Welsh trained horse for the first time since 1965 - Northern, trained by Denzil Jenkins in Cowbridge, was successful when champion jockey A P McCoy, riding the Rebecca Curtis trained favourite Teafortree, got the better of Triggernation in the closing stages.

However, Paul Carberry, riding Monbeg Dude came from last to first and timed his run to perfection getting home by just half-a-length from Teafortree to spoil the party.

The winner is part owned by Mike Tindall, former England rugby star, and trained by Michael Scudamore at Bromsash in Herefordshire.

BRIAN LEE

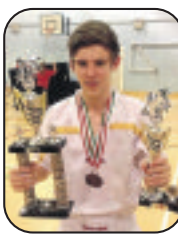
Liam lands trophies!

ON Sunday, at Western Leisure Centre in Ely, Cardiff, the W.O.M.A.A Welsh Championships in martial arts took place.

Liam Rees (15) who is a pupil at St Richard Gwyn school, Barry, attended as part of W.M.A kickboxing.

Liam dominated the boys advanced over 5ft 2 section and took first place in point sparring!

Moving up to the men's 85 kilo's and under category Liam, having to compete against much heavier competitors, took an impressive second place.



Liam Rees.

Following in his brother's footsteps, Liam's younger brother Jensen Rees (6) took second place in points sparring too!

Well done boys! Thank you to Liam's sponsors, Autopro and Glamorgan Plumbing.

LR

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